

THE PROMULGATOR

The Official Magazine of the Lafayette Bar Association



CLOSING A STRONG YEAR,
WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP!
DECEMBER 2025 | VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 6



Way above.
Way beyond.
In defending
your family.



Lindsay Meador Young and Galloway family law attorneys are dedicated to providing result-driven representation that protects and defends families. We are tenacious and steadfast champions for our clients. With years of experience and success, Lindsay and her team have gained a strong reputation for putting people first and producing favorable outcomes for each type of family law case.

Practice Areas of Expertise:

- Prenuptial Agreements
- Divorce
- Child Support
- Spousal Support
- Child Custody
- Community Property Partitions



Lindsay Meador Young, Director
(337) 735-1760

3861 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy, Suite 300
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

GallowayLawFirm.com

LA-25-18975

YOUR TRUSTED CORPORATE DEFENSE AND LITIGATION FIRM

Results May Vary



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

Pictured on the cover are Thomas Reginald "Trey" Hightower III with his wife, Paige, and their four children: Melanie Marie, Thomas, and Joseph Michael.

ARTICLES

President's Message.....	4
Executive Director's Message.....	5
Foundation Chair Update	6
Family Law Section Update.....	7
Young Lawyers Section Update.....	8

FEATURES

CLE By the Hour.....	9
Meet the 2025-2026 LBA President.....	10-11
Reflections on the Endurance of Legal Service Attorneys & Professionalism...	14-16

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

LBA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Artmosphere
5:30 p.m., December 4, 2025

CLE BY THE HOUR

LBA Office
December 10, 11, 12,
15, 17, 19, 22, 29, 30

RED MASS

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
Noon, January 9, 2026

COURT OPENING

Lafayette Parish Courthouse
2 p.m., January 9, 2026

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

ASSOCIATION BOARD

Trey Hightower, President
Andrew Quackenbos, President-Elect
Stuart Breaux, Imm. Past President
Dean Cole, Foundation Chair
Jennifer Ardoin
Lesley Beam
Roya Boustany
Tamiko Chatman
Reed Ellis
J. P. Graf
Kenny Hebert
Logan Istre
Jonathan Jarrett
Jason Matt
Rickey Miniex
Jared Nelson
Cameron Pontiff
Jamie Rhymes
Steven Ramos
Maggie Simar
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
Glenn Edwards
George D. "Dave" Ernest
Thomas R. Hightower, Jr.
Thomas "Trey" R. Hightower, III
Jonathan Jarrett
Miles Matt
Dwazendra Smith
Stuart Breaux

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Clare Roubion, Editor

LAFAYETTE BAR STAFF

Jan Swift
Executive Director

Marilyn Lopez
Director of Pro Bono Services

Bailey Moyer
Events Coordinator

Jordan Lippincott
Marketing Coordinator

Cheryl Robichaux
Administrative Assistant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Lafayette Bar Association Members:

It is with great honor and privilege that I have the opportunity to serve as the Lafayette Bar Association President this year.

Before looking forward to the next year, I would be remiss if I did not first recall the great success of this past year. As I said at the Installation Banquet, our Bar Association has consistently proven to be among the best, and the success of the Bar is directly the result of the efforts of our volunteer members and, of course, our dedicated Bar staff. Outgoing President, Stuart Breaux's leadership during this past year will be difficult to duplicate, as his calm and steady hand throughout the transition period this past year enabled our Bar to continue carrying out its mission without missing a beat. Job well done, my friend!

Our Executive Director, Jan Swift, and her All-Star cast excelled at every task – of which there are many. The toughest of tasks, impossible some might say, is to get a room full of lawyers to agree on something, but I can say with full confidence that our Bar is proud to have this staff on the job, and in charge of showcasing our legal community. Keep up the great work Jan, Marilyn, Bailey,

Jordan and Cheryl.

For most, 2025 is winding down, but for our Bar, there is still plenty of service work left to do. First, we celebrate, though, with our LBA Holiday Party on December 4, 2025, at Artmosphere. I hope to see you all there for food, drinks, and fun to kick off the Holiday season!

Shortly thereafter, our end of the year CLE-by-the-Hour program commences. The program begins with full-day sessions on December 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, and 29. Please visit the website at lafayettebar.org to sign up for these CLE opportunities that cover a wide range of topics from an excellent slate of speakers.

After we eat our black-eyed peas, cabbage and cornbread, and settle in on a resolution for the New Year, the Bar will host the traditional Red Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on January 9, 2026, and celebrate with a Court Opening Ceremony that will take place at the Lafayette Parish Courthouse immediately after. As is tradition, we will welcome our newly-admitted attorneys and honor those attorneys who passed away over the previous year. Please be on the lookout for details and please make every effort to attend these truly meaningful events.

You could say that my involvement in the Bar Association began 41



Trey Hightower

years ago when my family was welcomed into the Lafayette legal community with open arms and lifetime friendships were made through our Bar Association. The strong sense of community that led my family to make a life here over the past 40 years, is alive and well today. Over the course of this coming year, I ask that please do your part in service, fellowship and professionalism, to continue to make our Bar the best it can be and shining example for other communities to follow.

I want to wish each and every one of you a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you, again, for entrusting me with the opportunity to lead the Lafayette Bar Association this coming year, and I look forward to working with each of you to make it the best one yet.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As 2025 comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on my first year serving as Executive Director of the Lafayette Bar Association. It has been a year filled with learning, connection, and deep appreciation for the people who make this organization such a vital part of our community and profession.

This past October, we celebrated Pro Bono Month, a time that once again reminded me of the generosity and commitment that define our members. I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary giving nature of our local attorneys, who continually step forward to offer their time, talent, and expertise to those most in need. Their efforts not only change lives but also uphold the highest ideals of our profession. The Lafayette legal community truly embodies service above self, and it has been inspiring to see that spirit in action throughout the year.

Behind every successful event and initiative stands an exceptional staff, and I would be remiss not to recognize the incredible team at the Bar office: Marilyn Lopez, Chery Robichaux, Bailey Moyer, and Jordan Lippincott. Their dedication, creativity, and tireless work make everything we do possible, from continuing education and community outreach, to member engagement and event coordination. It has been an honor to work alongside such a capable and passionate group of professionals.

As we turn the page to a new year, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Trey Hightower, who was recently sworn in as our new President. Trey's leadership, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Bar's mission will undoubtedly continue to move us forward. At the same time, I offer sincere thanks to Stuart Breaux for his outstanding service as President this past year. Stuart led with wisdom, energy, and grace, and we are all better for his guidance and example.

To LBA's board members as well as our Association membership, thank you for welcoming me so warmly into this role and for the support and encouragement you've shown along the way. I look forward to continuing our shared work in the year ahead as we build on our strong foundation, deepen our community impact, and celebrate the profession we are privileged to serve.

Wishing each of you a joyful holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year.



Jan Swift

**THERESA DE BÊCHE
& ASSOCIATES**

Theresa de Bêche, RN, MN, LNC
Legal Nurse Consultant

107 Shinnecock Hills Drive
Broussard, LA 70518



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



337.233.8973

Interpreters | Translators
LEGAL | OIL & GAS | TECHNICAL
Depositions / Documents / Court
All Major World Languages

"When Your Business Hangs on Every Word."

lingua-translation.com | Lafayette LA





MEDIATION CENTER

- Fast & Reliable WIFI
- A/V Equipment
- Comfortable Space
- Soundproof Rooms
- Video Conferencing
- Helpful & Courteous staff
- Complimentary beverages, snacks, and more!

STARTING AT \$100 PER ROOM







ACCESS TO JUSTICE

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



As we enjoy the mild weather and gatherings with friends and family that we cherish during the holiday season from Thanksgiving through Christmas, I am humbled and honored to work with so many attorneys who truly give of themselves to provide pro bono legal services to our community. We celebrated many of these attorneys at our well-attended Champions of Justice banquet where we recognized the following **outstanding pro bono attorneys**:

Joshua Barnhill, Brandon Bradley, Dean Doherty, Karly Dorr, Kyle Gideon, Ryan Goudelocke, Robert Guidry, David Kaufman, Brittany LaCombe, Gregory Landry, Dyan Schnaars, Maggie Simar, L. Shaun Trahan, and Taneisha Riggs.

We also presented the following with the well-deserved awards:

Outstanding Counsel on Call: David Kaufman and Ryan Goudelocke

Outstanding H.E.L.P. - “Homeless Experience Legal Protection”: Joshua Barnhill

Top Financial Contributor Award: Corporate—Hargrave Chiropractic; Firm—NeunerPate;

Individual—James Kirk Piccione and Brenda Piccione

Outstanding Solo Practitioner: David Kaufman

As always, thank you to Marilyn Lopez and the rest of the staff for making the event a resounding success, as well as for the rest of our Pro Bono Week activities.

We’re excited to announce our upcoming schedule of Foundation events for the first quarter of 2026. We have a tax seminar for the public tentatively scheduled for January 14th, an online seminar regarding bankruptcy that we will debut and a child support seminar featuring an attorney from the Department of Children and Family Services.

We’re also excited to announce that we will soon begin a program with ALSC to provide expungements for qualified non-violent offenders who are unable to do so financially. Our CLE seminar for interested attorneys is tentatively scheduled for February 26, 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you and your families!



FAMILY LAW SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT

LOGAN ISTRE

I am extremely excited to serve as this year’s President of the Lafayette Bar Association’s Family Law Section, an organization that has done quite a lot for me. When I started attending section meetings a little over four years ago, it gave me an opportunity to interact with colleagues of mine in a social setting, which has made practicing within the field of family law a better experience. It allowed me, a young(er) attorney to get to know and pose questions to experienced attorneys, who have a wealth of knowledge in our area. It also gave me a sense of community within my field, knowing that others around me are facing similar issues, and provided me with plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas with colleagues on unique issues. I am hopeful that I can usher in another year of opportunities like these to both returning and new section members with the help my amazing fellow officers: Brittany LaCombe, Vice President; Wesley Galjour, Treasurer; Jonathan Jarrett, Secretary; Immediate Past President, Lesley Beam; and Maggie Simar, Richard Mere, and Rachel Godley, serving as members at large.

Now that we have officially been sworn in, we are excited for upcoming events, including our first meeting and CLE for the section this term, which on November 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. with our very own executive committee member, Hearing Officer Maggie Simar, presenting “Boundaries of the Attorney Client Relationship & Why You Shouldn’t Sleep with Your Client”. We are excited to see what future CLE’s that our Vice President, Brittany LaCombe will line up, which will be announced as they are finalized.

We are also gearing up for our yearly Family Law Section Holiday Party, which will be held on December 6, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. All Family Law Section members are invited to join us for food, drinks, and fun. Rest assured, although it is almost certain that our Tigers will not be appearing in the SEC Championship Game, our gracious host, Mr. Jonathan Jarrett, has assured us that there will be a television available for those who wish to view the spectacle.

As we are nearing the Holidays, we also ask that our members participate in our 2025 Holiday Giving Campaign. This year we are asking for monetary donations, toys, blankets, books, and toiletries for Faith House of Acadiana, an organization that

has helped many victims of domestic violence, escape their abusers and get back on their feet. Considering the help that this organization has provided to those in our city who have needed it most, we could not think of a better organization to donate to this holiday season.

Lastly, I want to extend a special thanks to our Immediate Past President, Lesley Beam, who served an extended term to get our section’s calendar back in line with the Lafayette Bar Association’s general elections. I am thrilled to have her advice as I take on this year, considering her drive and love for the section, for which our section was and is all the better for. I look forward to this year’s challenges, and I am hopeful that with a little guidance from Lesley, this year will be a fantastic year for the section.

Yours Sincerely,
Logan R. Istre

DOWNTOWN LAFAYETTE LAW OFFICE & PRACTICE FOR SALE

Unique opportunity to acquire a **package deal**: a well-established law practice and centrally located downtown office.

- **Office Space:** Over 3,000 sq. ft. with off-street parking, 1017 Lafayette Street, adjoining the First Baptist Church property
- **Practice Areas:** Primarily Real Estate, Estate Planning, Wills, and Successions
- **Transition:** Seller has operated from this location for 52 years and will remain in an “Of Counsel” role on very favorable terms for at least one year, with flexibility for longer if desired
- **Ideal Candidate:** A personable attorney who enjoys helping clients from all walks of life
- **Financing:** Seller financing available

If interested or for further details, please call **337-344-0222** and leave a message.

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



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT

J.P. GRAF

On November 6, we gathered at Warehouse 535 for the Installation of the Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation, the Young Lawyers Section, and the Family Law Section boards and committee chairs. It was a strong start to the new Bar year—well attended, full of energy, and a reminder of how fortunate we are to practice in a collegial legal community. My sincere thanks to the Lafayette Bar staff—especially Jan Swift, Jordan Lippincott, Bailey Moyer, Cheryl Robichaux and Marilyn Lopez—for the months of planning and behind-the-scenes work that made the evening seamless. We’re also deeply grateful to our sponsors—Home Bank, Domengeaux Wright Roy & Edwards, Gordon Arata, The Hightower Law Firm, and Marcelle Robertson Mestayer—for their continued support of our Bar. A warm welcome back to Jacques Mestayer, who recently returned to Lafayette from New Orleans; we’re glad to have you home and involved in Bar life. And thank you to the judges who joined us—especially Judge Thomas Duplantier, who graciously administered six oaths to our new boards and committee chairs, a genuine test of judicial patience and stamina.

As we enter the holiday season, the Young Lawyers Section turns again to service. Each year, we select a Holiday Giving Project to support a local organization meeting urgent needs in Acadiana. This year, we are honored to partner with Hearts of Hope—the region’s only sexual-trauma center—which provides forensic interviews, counseling, and case management for child and adult survivors of sexual assault. Their

work is quiet, skilled, and profoundly humane, and we hope you and your firms will join us in supporting them.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on what makes the YLS valuable every year: connection, professional growth, and service. Expect a full calendar of CLEs, socials, fundraisers, and pro bono events that are easy to attend and worth your time. If you’re new to the Bar, pick one event and introduce yourself; if you’re a familiar face, bring a colleague who hasn’t made it out yet. Mentorship—formal and informal—will continue to be a priority. In the near term, we hope to see you at the Lafayette Bar Christmas Party on December 4 at Artmosphere.

I’m especially excited to work with our new Bar Association President, Trey Hightower, and our committees to make this year welcoming, useful, and memorable. Our Bar’s strength is intergenerational: young lawyers learning from seasoned practitioners and seasoned practitioners staying energized by newer members. If you’re wondering where to start, show up. Join a committee. Volunteer for a clinic. Say ‘yes’ to lunch with someone new.

Thank you to everyone who made Installation night a success, to our sponsors for believing in the mission, and to our judiciary for steadfast support. As the holidays approach, I hope you find rest with family and friends—and that you’ll join us in supporting Hearts of Hope. Here’s to a year of connection, service, and showing up for one another. See you soon.

2025 CLE BY THE HOUR

We invite you to join us throughout the month of December to obtain your 2025 CLE credits if you have not done so already.

All of the CLEs will run throughout the full length of each of these days, and will be hosted at the LBA office. We will also be offering these

sessions virtually. Sign up by visiting our events page, or scanning the QR code.

As a reminder, if you attend any of the CLE by the Hour sessions through Zoom, they will not count towards your in-person credits. They will be applied as online credits.



	TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
DEC 10	8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Basic Estate Planning & 2025 Wills Update	Steven Ramos
	9:05 AM-10:05 AM	Safeguarding Client Confidentiality: Critical Controls for Meeting Modern Legal Obligations	Drew Boyd
	10:10 AM -11:10 AM	Appraisals for Litigation and Legal Use: A Practical Guide for Attorneys	Lane Duplechin
	11:15 AM -12:15 PM	Navigating Civility, Well-Being, and Integrity in Today’s Legal Practice (Professionalism)	Clare Roubion
	12:20 PM 1:20 PM	Yo, There Are Rules Here!! (Professionalism)	Dwazendra Smith
	1:25 PM-2:25 PM	Did I do that (create a real estate title problem)?	Margo Dugas & Katie Belanger
	2:30 PM- 3:30 PM	Nuts and Bolts of U.S. Immigration Law	Tala Voosoghi
	3:35 PM -4:35 PM	State of the Profession (Professionalism)	Shannon Dartez
DEC 11	8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Recent Developments in Legal Ethics (Ethics)	Clare Roubion
	9:05 AM-10:05 AM	Paternity Issues	Jonathan Jarrett
	10:10 AM -11:10 AM	Mediation Impasse	William Justice & Julie DeGeneres
	11:15 AM -12:15 PM	Small Successions	Fred Davis
	12:20 PM 1:20 PM	Summary Judgement Strategy	Reed Ellis & Caroline Hidalgo
	1:25 PM-2:25 PM	Adoptions	Brittany LaCombe
	2:30 PM- 3:30 PM	TBA	TBA
DEC 12	3:35 PM -4:35 PM	TBA	Alice Landry
	8:00 AM-9:00 AM	Domestic Violence: Legal Frameworks	Emilia Pardo
	9:05 AM-10:05 AM	AI is — probably — not the enemy	Brittany LaCombe
	10:10 AM -11:10 AM	The (Very,Very) Basics of Local Government Law	Pat Ottinger
	11:15 AM -12:15 PM	Community Property for Dummies	Lesley Beam
	12:20 PM 1:20 PM	Naughty, Nice, or Needs Supervision : A Holiday Guide to What Lawyers Must, May, and Should Do (Ethics)	Clare Roubion
	1:25 PM-2:25 PM	Section 1983 Constitutional Civil Rights Litigation	Joy Rabalais
	2:30 PM- 3:30 PM	Non-Competes	Cliff LaCour
	3:35 PM -4:35 PM	Sports Psychology and Mindfulness for Lawyers	Ross Roubion

Schedule is subject to change.

OTHER CLE BY THE HOUR DATES: DECEMBER 15, 17, 19, 22, 29, 30



Trey Hightower

Your 2025-2026 LBA President

BY WILLIAM KAUFMAN

As Trey Hightower steps into the role of President of our Bar Association, he assumes a new title, but it is a natural next chapter in a career defined by leadership and service. In talking to Trey about his upcoming term, it quickly became evident that he will place an emphasis on fostering communication and collegiality among our bar and supporting the important role we – as lawyers – serve as leaders in the broader community. Having known Trey for many years and serving on boards with him, that came as no surprise.

Trey's default mode is taking a leadership role, and his efforts to foster community and fellowship are manifest. He knows we

can each use our respective professional skills to make a meaningful impact on the broader community, and I am sure he will work to make sure our Bar Association facilitates it.

He regularly uses his outgoing spirit and interests to build bridges and solve problems. Whether it is his love of football, hunting, sipping an Old Fashioned at Don's, or Mardi Gras or his involvement with community endeavors like the Bar Association or Big Brothers Big Sisters, those activities often serve as a backdrop to bring people together whether it is merely for the sake of fellowship or to help resolve a case or to champion a cause.

Trey is also one of the most determined people I know. There is a fine line between stubbornness and determination and he is not afraid to walk that line, but his determination has served him (and his clients) well.

He takes his role as a lawyer seriously. I have never had a case with or against Trey, but I have no doubt he is not only a tough and adept litigator, but also a rational problem solver not overly caught up in fighting for fighting's sake. I asked Jerome Moroux about litigating with Trey, and his experiences seem to sum Trey up perfectly, "I love and hate having cases against Trey. The hate part first: a case against Trey ain't a walk

in the park. So if there's something in your case you're worried about being uncovered, Trey is going to discover it; if you're hoping he doesn't ask a certain question or dreaming he won't catch some ambiguity in testimony, forget about it. But I also love cases with him, because I know he treats the job like it's supposed to be treated. He values real relationships, and he has a genuine concern for the people he works for and against. There has never been a case with Trey where after it was all over, we didn't get together for a meal or a drink to laugh about it all." That sums up what is best in our profession and what I so appreciate about Trey.

He has a knack for strategic thinking and solving problems. There is no doubt he will take on this leadership role and serve as a good steward for the strong traditions and camaraderie our bar has enjoyed for generations now, seeking to improve it when and where appropriate.

Having been President of the Young Lawyers' Section and having been mentored by a number of well-respected lawyers in our community (including Judge Haik, Marc Judice and Trey's owner father, Tommy), he readily recognizes the importance of building collegiality from the first days of a young lawyer's career. Chase Texada, who worked with Trey at the Hightower Law Firm, explains, "Trey has been a role model to me for as long as I can remember, and that respect only deepened during our seven years working together. He embodies what it means to advocate with passion and integrity, treating every person with respect both in practice and in service to his community." Trey has great mentoring experiences to share, and that will help him in making certain our bar is a welcoming one to young lawyers.

The first time I served on a board

with Trey was soon after I moved back to Lafayette and he was serving as President of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana Board. He voluntold asked me to serve on the board with him.

"THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A CASE WITH TREY WHERE AFTER IT WAS ALL OVER, WE DIDN'T GET TOGETHER FOR A MEAL OR A DRINK TO LAUGH ABOUT IT ALL."

I was quickly impressed with his involvement and commitment to that organization. Like most presidents of philanthropic boards, he spent considerable time on the rather mundane and typical administrative duties. He also recruited his friends to give their time and treasure to the organization. For some of us that was our first meaningful philanthropic commitment as young professionals. However, despite being busy trying to grow his own practice and attending to his own family, he made a more impactful and more sincere commitment to his adopted "Little Brother" – often taking him on Saturday morning outings and staying engaged with him for years.

Kimberly Neustrom, who served as Executive Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana at the time, shared, "For more than a decade, Trey was an integral part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana family – serving as a mentor, volunteer, board member, and past chair. His years of guiding and supporting others through

mentorship reflect the same dedication, insight, and steady leadership that will serve him well as President of the Lafayette Bar Association." We often are "involved" in many activities, but what impressed me about Trey's involvement was that it was not merely superficial. It was sincere and consequential.

The glue that holds his busy life together, faith and family, are constants in Trey's life. In many ways, his devotion to his faith and to his wife Paige and their children truly define his character more so than his professional successes. He and his family are parishioners at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, and his boys Thomas, Joseph, and Michael all attend Cathedral Carmel, and his beautiful daughter Melanie Marie attends St. Mary Early Learning Center.

After graduating from the LSU Law Center in 2008 and finishing a judicial clerkship in 2009 under Judge Haik, Trey practiced with Judice & Adley before joining Hightower Law Firm in 2012. Since that time, Trey has enjoyed a general civil litigation practice regularly handling cases for both plaintiffs and defendants and maintaining a balanced practice. He has been very involved in the legal profession and was presented with the Outstanding Attorney Award by the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers three times and honored by the Louisiana State Bar Association with the Pro Bono Publico Award. He has also served as President of the Lafayette Young Lawyers Association and the John M. Duhe Inn of Court. You can read his full bio at <https://hightowerlawla.com/thomas-r-hightower/>

We have an excellent new President whose leadership, determination and affable demeanor will serve us and our community well. Trey, thank you for your continued service to the bar and to our community.

LAFAYETTE BAR ASSOCIATION

HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 4, 2025

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

PHOTO-OP WITH SANTA FROM 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

ARTMOSPHERE

902 JOHNSTON ST., LAFAYETTE, LA 70501

RSVP TO EVENTS@LAFAYETTEBAR.ORG

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

LAFAYETTE BONE & JOINT CLINIC **Dr. Brett Venable** CHIROPRACTOR ADVOCATE EXPERT

THE GRAPEVINE

Ottinger Hebert, L.L.C. welcomes attorneys Kate B. Landry, Owen D. Thibodeaux, and John R. Landry. Their practices span energy, litigation, and commercial matters, reflecting the firm's continued growth and commitment to developing Louisiana's next generation of legal talent.



Kate Landry



Owen Thibodeaux



John Landry

Parker & Landry is pleased to announce that it has hired Brennan Smith as its newest Attorney. Brennan recently graduated law school and passed the Louisiana Bar Exam, and he was sworn in by the Louisiana Supreme Court on October 20, 2025. Welcome to the firm, Brennan!

Dr. Brett Venable

RECOVERY CHIROMED

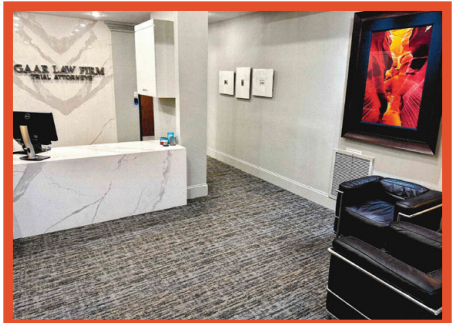
Board Certified Neuromusculoskeletal Specialist (DIANM)

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.

- Official Chiropractor of the Louisiana Ragin Cajuns
- 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



OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

Office Building for Sale
114 Representative Row
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508

Size: 8,130 square feet
Call (337) 233-3185
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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

As we close out another year of service to our profession, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our contributors, readers, and colleagues who make The Promulgator a meaningful resource for our bar community. Each issue reflects the generosity of lawyers and judges willing to share their time, experience, and insight. Your engagement—whether through writing, reading,

or simply offering ideas—strengthens the publication and the profession it serves. Thank you for your commitment to thoughtful discourse, practical guidance, and the collegial spirit that defines our bar. We look forward to continuing that work in the year ahead. Wishing you a peaceful end to the year and a hopeful start to the next.

Clare Roubion
Clareroubion@legalethics.com
337-258-0101





Reflections on the Endurance of Legal Service Attorneys & Professionalism

In 1978, the doors of Acadiana Legal Service Corporation (ALSC) opened to low-income individuals and families in desperate need of civil legal assistance to secure the fundamental civil rights that others at that time took for granted. The founders of ALSC recognized that the power of legal litigation could offer hope to the oppressed by drawing the community's attention to laws and systemic civil inequalities that erected barriers to justice. The founders understood that providing civil legal representation to the marginalized not only restores hope and dignity to the individuals served but also strengthens the community as a whole.

Fast forward to today, our mission to provide exceptional civil legal services by advocating for fairness, protection, and justice for our disadvantaged client community endures. I extol the unwavering dedication of my ALSC colleagues, who work tirelessly to fulfill this mission. Every day, those who have chosen a career in legal services make meaningful differences in the lives of our clients by helping them resolve critical legal issues that affect their safety, stability, and future. Their persistence and hard work ensure that our clients have timely access to exceptional civil legal assistance, despite the many challenges that come with this work.

Our mission demands professional excellence, a humble respect for the dignity of all people, and a deep personal commitment to justice and equity. Despite obstacles, working in the field of legal aid is both a professional

and personal journey that fosters growth, resilience, and a profound sense of purpose. Over time, I have come to understand that professionalism in legal services is not defined solely by one's mastery of the law, but by how that mastery is used to advance fairness, empower individuals and communities, and uphold the ideals to which the legal profession aspires.

The practice of public interest law also reveals a sobering truth: the demand for legal services far exceeds the resources available. Legal aid organizations across the nation operate under strict regulations, with limited budgets and lean staffing, while managing high caseloads and representing clients in urgent, life-changing situations. Public interest law serves as a vital lifeline for marginalized populations, who are often overlooked by systems that were not designed to accommodate their realities. Low-income families facing evictions, survivors of domestic violence seeking safety, children in foster care yearning for stability, and seniors navigating complex benefit systems all rely on legal aid to access the rights guaranteed to them under the law. Without these services, many would experience justice not as an equal right but as an unattainable privilege.

Yet, even amid challenges, those who serve in legal aid continue to uphold professionalism rooted in purpose rather than material reward. The persistent pay disparity between the public interest and the private sector reflects a broader societal undervaluation of legal service work. Legal service attorneys, along with the support staff who work beside them, are compensated at a fraction of what their private practice counterparts earn. Furthermore, legal aid attorneys are prohibited from engaging in outside legal private practice to supplement their income and are required to report any secondary non-legal employment. Indeed, many of my colleagues are financially eligible for the very services we provide. Sadly, despite the importance of their contributions, legal aid attorneys are seldom publicly recognized individually for their service. Still, they remain steadfast, driven not by compensation or acknowledgement but by the mission to serve those who have nowhere else to turn.

Legal professionalism extends beyond knowledge,

competence, technical skill, or ethical compliance. It encompasses integrity, accountability, compassion, and adaptability. In the public interest sector, these qualities are tested daily when resources are scarce, client needs are urgent and complex, and the stakes are life-changing. Professionalism means maintaining composure under pressure, setting aside personal challenges, and treating every client with respect and empathy.

When working with vulnerable populations, trust is everything. Integrity, doing what is right even when it is inconvenient, is the foundation of meaningful relationships with clients, colleagues, and the community. Whether it's being transparent about case outcomes or acknowledging an error, professionalism is rooted in honesty and accountability. Public interest lawyers quickly realize that compassion and empathy are not just virtues, but powerful forms of advocacy. By deeply understanding our clients' stories, we come to see the law not merely as a system of rules, but as a living framework that can transform lives. This understanding does not weaken legal arguments; rather, it strengthens them by grounding advocacy in real human experiences, making us more effective and compassionate advocates. Because public interest law is continually evolving, professionalism in the legal service arena also requires adaptability. Those who work in legal aid must be willing to reimagine traditional approaches, embrace new technologies, create innovative legal strategies, and seek community-driven solutions to meet the modern challenges our clients face.

The emotional weight of public interest work can be significant. Professionalism requires that attorneys recognize their own limitations and take care of themselves to remain effective. Burnout serves no one - not the lawyer, not the client, and not the profession. By maintaining work-life balance, we honor our well-being and,



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



as a result, enhance the quality of the services we provide.

Equally vital to our mission are partnerships that strengthen the legal profession and expand the capacity of legal aid. One of the most powerful lessons learned through public interest work is that the responsibility for equal justice cannot rest solely on the shoulders of legal aid organizations. Private attorneys, bar associations, and other community partners play a crucial role in bridging the gap between the limited resources of legal services and the overwhelming need in our communities.

Public interest work thrives on teamwork. Therefore, legal professionalism also means

handling individual cases, mentoring new attorneys, or contributing specialized legal knowledge, pro bono lawyers embody our profession's highest ideals of service, integrity, and commitment to justice. Every attorney, regardless of practice area, has both an ethical and professional duty to ensure that a person's income does not determine their access to justice. Fairness and justice become not privileges, but rights that are fully realized and shared by all, when public interest lawyers, private practitioners, and bar associations, along with other community partners, work together.

The experience of working in public interest law is both humbling and inspiring. Each case, each client, and each challenge is a validation that the

“The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.” — Mahatma Gandhi

recognizing the strength in collective expertise and valuing every contribution to the cause of justice. No single attorney or organization can meet every need. The most effective outcomes often result from partnerships, especially with private attorneys. Consequently, in the legal profession, we must recognize that pro bono work is not charity; it is shared stewardship of the justice system. Specifically, when private attorneys volunteer their time and expertise, they multiply the impact of legal aid organizations. Whether by

pursuit of justice is as much about who we are as legal professionals as it is about what we do as advocates. Commitment to justice for all is the anchor that keeps legal service attorneys steady amid the turbulent waters of public service. ALSC's attorneys remain committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients by addressing critical legal issues, including domestic violence, family law matters, housing, and public benefits. We are reminded daily that professionalism, at its core, is about service guided by values, strengthened by collaboration, and sustained by self-care. With the collective efforts of local and state bar associations, private attorneys, and other community partners, legal service attorneys continue the work of advancing the noble promise of our profession: Justice for ALL!

Rediscover Service.

At Kean Miller, client partnerships are built on collaboration, mutual respect, and a deep understanding of your business goals. From navigating legal complexities to seizing new opportunities, we're with you every step of the way.

Our commitment is to more than legal excellence; it's a people-first commitment to client service, exceeding your expectations, and providing outcomes that allow you to compete at the highest level.

Rediscover a law firm with a passion for service.



LOUISIANA • LAFAYETTE • BATON ROUGE
LAKE CHARLES • NEW ORLEANS • SHREVEPORT
TEXAS • HOUSTON • THE WOODLANDS
KeanMiller.com



Rethink.
Refine.
Rediscover.



WHAT HAPPENED?

Complex questions answered

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



Consultants. Experts. Innovators.™

rimkus.com
+1 800 580 3228



GEAUX CASUAL FOR PRO BONO

Congratulations to our winners of the Geaux Casual for Pro Bono campaign: Acadiana Legal Service Corporation, Onebane Law Firm, Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith and Swift & Rhoades LLP!

The law firms won delicious cookie cakes generously donated by Caroline's Cookies.

We would like to thank all the law firms that participated in the campaign during National

Pro Bono Week and helped us raise money for the Lafayette Bar Foundation to fund its various legal programs that assist the less fortunate in our community: Castro Law Firm, LLC, 15th Judicial District Court Judge Thomas Duplantier and his staff, Hightower Law Firm, NeunerPate, O'Pry Law Firm, Law Office Of Taneisha W. Riggs, and 16th Judicial District Court Hearing Officer Maggie Simar and her staff.





1



2



6



7

Lafayette Bar Installation

November 6, 2025



8



3



4



9

1. Trey and Tommy Hightower. 2. Kenny Hebert giving Outstanding Young Lawyer Award to Ani Boudreaux. 3. Hightower Family at installation banquet. 4. Family Law Section Leadership being sworn in. 5. LBA Board 2025-2026. 6. Jason Matt with family. 7. Deacon Tim Maragos with Judge Susan Theall. 8. Stuart Breau giving President's Award to Jen Ardoin and Judge Roya Boustany. 9. Trey Hightower and Stuart Breau. 10. Young Lawyer's Section Board.

Thanks to our Sponsors



5



10

“THE ART OF RESOLUTION: A MEDIATION ROUNDTABLE” SEPTEMBER CLE & SOCIAL



hosted by the
Family Law Section & Young Lawyers Section



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



JD **IOLTA** CHECKING ACCOUNT

GET TO KNOW THE JD IOLTA
- INTEREST ON LAWYERS' TRUST
ACCOUNTS - CHECKING
ACCOUNT FROM JD BANK

In the course of regular business, Lawyers may need to hold funds for retainers, settlement proceeds, court-awarded damages, among other reasons. Using an IOLTA account – Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts – **ensures any interest earned is remitted to state bar associations or bar foundations**, which are donated to support legal aid programs and other public service initiatives.

JD BANK LOUISIANA'S COMMUNITY BANK™	JD IOLTA CHECKING ACCOUNT
MONTHLY FEE	NO
MINIMUM BALANCE	NO
EARNs INTEREST	Earns interest, paid to Louisiana Bar Foundation
WIRE FEES	No fee domestic and international wires

Account Qualifiers: Registered with the Louisiana Bar Foundation.
Maintain a JD Bank commercial checking account for your firm.



300 VEROT SCHOOL RD. | 3600 JOHNSTON ST. | 800-789-5159 | LAFAYETTE | JDBANK.COM

2025 CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE

Awards Breakfast



TOP CORPORATE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR AWARD
Hargrave Chiropractic



TOP INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR AWARD
Brenda and Kirk Piccione



OUTSTANDING FIRM AWARD & TOP FIRM FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR AWARD
NeunerPate



ALLY OF THE YEAR AWARD
Louisiana Bar Foundation



STEVEN JAMES MATT BEYOND THE BOOKS AWARD
Kimberley Svetlick



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
& OUTSTANDING IN-PERSON
COUNSEL ON CALL AWARD
Ryan Goudelocke



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
& OUTSTANDING H.E.L.P.
AWARD
Joshua Barnhill



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
& TAMMY DEROUEN OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO BAR AWARD
Dean Doherty



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Brandon Bradley



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Dyan Schnaars



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Greg Landry



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Brittany LaCombe



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Robert Guidry



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Taneisha Riggs



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Maggie Simar



OUTSTANDING PRO BONO ATTORNEY
Kyle Gideon

Thanks to our Sponsors

NEUNERPATE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

b1BANK



James Kirk Piccione accepts the Highest Shooter Award on behalf of his teammate Roger Turner.



Congratulations to the winners, Team STIM! (Duston Bourgeois, Dwayne Arceneaux, Steve Dugas and Aaron Guillory)

Our gratitude goes to Clay Shoot Chairman Tyler Frederick and Lafayette Bar Foundation Chair Dean Cole for helping make the tournament a success!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



PERRY DAMPF DISPUTE SOLUTIONS

Lafayette Panel



Pat Briney



Bob David



Pride Doran



Jim Gibson



Dicky Haik



Mike Hill



Richard Hymel



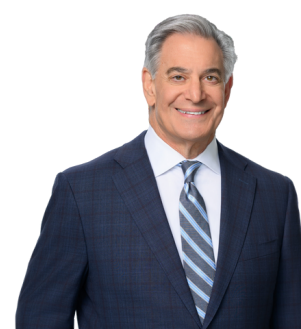
Tommy Juneau



Robert Kallam



Jim Lochridge



Robbie Mahtook



Frank Neuner



Steve Rabalais



Randy Theunissen

Perry Dampf Lafayette

1301 Camellia Blvd, Suite 400

Lafayette, LA 70508

337-905-3128

When Local Matters

PerryDampf.com

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.

Josh Barnhill
The Law office of Joshua Barnhill, LLC

Dereck Brondum
Kean Miller LLP

Catherine Carrier
Galloway Johnson

Karly Dorr
NeunerPate

Claire Edwards
Attorney at Law

Cade Evans
Benoit & Evans

Shytishia Flugence
Attorney at Law

Corrie Gallien
Gallien Law

Kyle Gideon
Davidson Meaux

Ryan Goudelocke
Goudelocke Law

Parker Harrell
Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott,
Fontenot, Gideon & Edwards

Madeleine Hughes
Kean Miller LLP

Florencia Ibanez
Florencia Ibanez Law

Jonathan Jarrett
The Jarrett Firm

David Kaufman
David M. Kaufman, APLC

Melissa Lam
Leake Andersson

Gregory Landry
Attorney at Law

Jason Matt
Matt and Allen

Jared Nelson
Galloway Johnson

Tucker Nims
Gordon McKernan Injury Attorneys

Randy Olson
Prime Title

Mark Owens
Owens Law

Taneisha Riggs
Law Office of Taneisha W. Riggs

Carmen Rodriguez
Jones Walker

Dyan Schnaars
Schnaars Law Firm, LLC

Maggie Simar
16th Judicial District Court

Phillip Smith
NeunerPate

Jeff Trosclair
Acadiana Legal Service Corporation

Katherine Wiley
Wiley & Jowers

*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!



**CHAD M.
GARLAND**
CPA, LLC

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