



LAFAYETTE BAR
ASSOCIATION & FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAFAYETTE BAR FOUNDATION
CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE AWARDS BREAKFAST
Honoring Volunteer Attorneys

The annual Champions of Justice Awards Breakfast was held on Friday, October 26th at Café Vermilionville. This event takes place every fall to honor and recognize those attorneys who have taken pro bono cases or been active in the Foundation's pro bono programs throughout the year. The morning began at 7:30, with a welcome from Lafayette Bar Association & Foundation Executive Director Josette Gossen, followed by the invocation, given by Fr. Brandt Montgomery (Associate Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension), and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Louisiana State Representative Jean-Paul Coussan. The Honorable James T. Genovese of the Louisiana Supreme Court presented the keynote; he congratulated the attorneys who were receiving awards and reminded everyone how important pro bono work is to our community. Hon. Genovese also presented the awards to each recipient, along with Lafayette Bar Foundation Chair Thomas R. Hightower, Jr., and Lafayette Bar Foundation Pro Bono Coordinator Marilyn Lopez. After awards were distributed, a closing prayer was said by the Rev. Henry Mancuso (retired), paralegal to Hon. Gene Thibodeaux, Chief Judge of the Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, followed by closing remarks given by Thomas R. Hightower, Jr.

Judiciary in attendance included: Hon. James T. Genovese, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice; Hon. Robert Summerhays, US District Court Western District of Louisiana; Hon. Richard Haik (Ret.); Hon. Carol Whitehurst, US District Court Western District of Louisiana; Hon. Phyllis Keaty, Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal; Hon. Candyce Perret, Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal; Hon. David Blanchet, 15th JDC; Hon. Marilyn Castle, 15th JDC; Hon. Jules Edwards, 15th JDC; Hon. John Trahan, 15th JDC; Hon. Douglas Saloom, Lafayette City Court; Hon. M'Elise Trahan, Crowley City Court.

Elected officials in attendance included: Tony Moore, Western District of LA Clerk of Court; Louis Perret, Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court; Jonathan Perry, LA State Senator; Gerald Boudreaux, LA State Senator; Terry Landry, LA State Representative; Vincent Pierre, LA State Representative; Jean-Paul Coussan, LA State Representative; John Stefanski, LA State Representative; Keith Stutes, 15th JDC District Attorney; Mark Garber, Lafayette Parish Sheriff.

Outstanding Pro Bono Attorney Award

Brandon Bradley, Ariel Campos, Sr., Carolyn Cole, Hallie Coreil, Jeffery Coreil, Dean Doherty, Morgan Druhan, Shytishia Flugence, Valerie Garrett, Valerie Guidry, Courtney Guillory, Jonathan Jarrett, David Kaufman, Seth Mansfield, Steven Matt, Christopher Orte, Dyan Schnaars, Geralyn Siefker, Dwazendra Smith, Phillip Smith, Kenneth St. Pe', Alex Stanford, Jessica Yaeger

Outstanding Counsel on Call Award

Geralyn Siefker

Outstanding Protective Order Award

Jonathan Jarrett, Phillip Smith

Outstanding H.E.L.P Award

Ariel Campos, Sr.

Outstanding Pro Bono Award

Courtney Guillory

Outstanding Solo Practitioner Award

Law Office of Courtney Guillory, LLC

Outstanding Small Firm Award

Becker & Hebert, LLC

Outstanding Medium Firm Award

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

Outstanding Large Firm Award

NeunerPate

Tammy DeRouen Outstanding Service to the Bar Award

Miles Matt

About Lafayette Bar Foundation

The Lafayette Bar Foundation was established in order to aid those in our community who are unable to afford an attorney and may be in need of legal advice, answers to legal questions, or counsel.

In response to this need, the Lafayette Bar Foundation has launched several pro bono programs that are free to the public, including the Protective Order Program (established to provide assistance and guidance for victims of domestic violence as they navigate the process of acquiring protective order), Counsel on Call (an opportunity to meet with an

attorney for 15 minutes and receive legal guidance for free), H.E.L.P. (established to provide certified copies of birth certificates to the homeless), as well as hosting free legal seminars on various topics. Several attorneys in the area help with these cases pro bono.

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