

President's Message

Interview of 2015-16 President H. Minor Pipes III

Interviewed by 2015-16 Secretary W. Michael Street

Street: Tell us about yourself and your family.

Pipes: I was born and raised in Houma, La., where my father and grandfather were attorneys. I was one of seven children. After high school, I attended college at Penn State University. After graduation, I spent a couple of years in Washington, D.C., before I made my way back to Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. I am happily married to the former Jill McKay of Baton Rouge and we have three sons, Henry, 12, Charlie, 10, and George, 8. I practice law in New Orleans as a founding member of the firm Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C.

Street: How did you get involved with the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF)?

Pipes: As a young lawyer, I was nominated to become a Fellow and began attending the Fellows' Breakfast at the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Annual Meeting/Summer School. Through work with the LSBA, I got to know a number of the leaders in that organization, many of whom had close ties to the LBF. I was very impressed with the amount of public service and give-back that was included at the LBF and the more I got involved, the more I enjoyed what our hard work could accomplish.

Street: What role does the LBF play in promoting access to the justice system?

Pipes: I think it is an irreplaceable cog in that entire system. As we all know, there has been a constant attack on funding for civil legal justice at the national and state level for the last several years. If it were not for the work of the LBF, I believe the large majority of those needing these services would simply go unassisted, and our grantees working in the civil legal

justice system would be unable to continue working in this area.

Street: Tell us about the LBF's new initiative, Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid.

Pipes: I think the Campaign is a very important concerted effort to continue the educational campaign about the need to support civil legal aid and to develop and implement procedures to properly raise funds to support that system.

Street: Why is the Campaign so important?

Pipes: Although many people support the goals and missions of the Campaign, without this educational component, many of our supporters may not be aware of the dire financial straits these organizations are under. And without a consolidated effort to raise funds to support these causes, the chance of raising sufficient funds to make a difference is very limited. I believe that by making a concerted, across-the-board effort that provides a consistent message and with documented goals and documented priorities, there is a much better chance for success. This is what the Campaign provides.

Street: Are you satisfied with the response of Louisiana attorneys to the call to perform pro bono work?

Pipes: Satisfied is a hard word. I am always impressed with the number of people who will give up both time and money for such important causes, especially when that includes performing pro bono work for people they've never



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met and solely for the greater good. With that in mind, I believe there is so much more we all can do. I think it is part of our professional obligation to give back to our community and to our profession as a whole. In doing so, I think each lawyer has an obligation to support and perform some form of pro bono work.

Street: How can Louisiana lawyers help the LBF?

Pipes: I think the first and easiest way is to become a Fellow. Support the organization through both financial and time contributions. By dedicating time and effort to help support civil legal aid and its structure throughout this state, we can all make a difference.

Street: What are your goals and vision as president of the LBF?

Pipes: I would love to see us expand the membership of the LBF and continue to obtain the ongoing support of the many members of the Bar and the judiciary who currently support the Bar Foundation. I also hope to continue to put our Campaign into place and address the long-term needs it is attempting to address. We are all very fortunate to be able to practice law and to be able to earn a living through our profession and, through the LBF, we have the ability to pay back for these many great gifts.

**Louisiana Bar Foundation
Announces New Fellows**

The Louisiana Bar Foundation
announces two new Fellows:

John C. Giglio, Jr.Lafayette
P. Craig Morrow, Jr. Opelousas
Hon. H. Stephens Winters Monroe