

## President's Message

# Discover the Many Ways LBF Fellows Get Involved

By 2019-20 President Amanda W. Barnett

**M**y first duty as Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) president was a tour around the state meeting many of our wonderful Fellows in person. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the most inspiring, giving and hardworking individuals from across the state. Our Fellows demonstrate their commitment to legal representation for the poor and improving our system of justice on a regular basis. These dedicated volunteers truly exemplify the highest ideals of our profession.

As the LBF president, I am proud to be a member of an organization directly impacting the legal profession and the community at large. Each year, the LBF awards grants to non-profit organizations and public interest attorneys throughout the state to address the civil legal needs of indigent citizens, provide a basic understanding of the law and assist with improvements to the justice system. The organizations we sup-

port provide free civil legal aid to women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, the newly unemployed, those facing loss of their homes, disaster victims and many others by providing services that go to the very heart of the health, safety and security of many of our citizens and their families.



Amanda W. Barnett

Members of the LBF are referred to as Fellows. Our membership consists of judges, lawyers and law professors whose professional, public and private careers demonstrate their dedication to the improvement of the administration of justice. LBF membership provides opportunities for networking, professional development, volunteer leadership and committee participation. Other benefits include invitations to special events and meetings; participation in annual nominations for the distinguished jurist, attorney and professor awards; and association with an organization directly impacting the legal profession and recognition of one's contribution to the profession.

There are many ways for Fellows to get involved.

► The Fellows Class Project is an opportunity for our newest members to get involved and be a part of the LBF mission through volunteer service. Each year, the class works on a project. This year, in partnership with Louisiana Appleseed, the LSC Liaison Project is working to educate communities about the importance of the legal services corporations.

► Join a committee or community partnership panel. Our committees include Communications, Development, Education, Grants and Kids' Chance, as well as the nine regional community partnership panels operating across the state.

► The LBF Education Committee, in partnership with the Community Partnership Panels, produces oral histories of retiring judges, Bar leaders and other legal personalities to preserve the history, culture and flavor of Louisiana Law. With CPP funding and support, we now have a collection of nearly 100 oral histories that can be viewed on the LBF website.

► The Annual Fellows Events are hosted by the Community Partnership Panels and are held every spring across the state to update Fellows on LBF activities, local projects and initiatives and to recognize local volunteers.

► The Annual Fellows Membership Meeting is an opportunity for Fellows to be updated on LBF activities and elect new board members.

► The Kids' Chance Scholarship Program awards educational scholarships to the dependents of workers killed or permanently disabled in a work-related accident.

► The Annual Fellows Gala is the LBF's largest fundraiser. Each year, lawyers, judges and professors gather to support the LBF's mission to preserve, honor and improve our system of justice. The gala is a black-tie event and includes dinner, an auction, entertainment and awards.

In an effort to grow LBF membership, we have removed criteria requiring sponsorship by an existing member of the Foundation. I encourage you to go to our website, [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org), and join today!

Additionally, we invite new members of the Bar to become an LBF Young Lawyer Fellow with a complimentary membership for the first year of practice. After the first year, it costs as little as \$100 to be a Young Lawyer Fellow of the Foundation and donations are tax-deductible. For more information, contact Outreach and Events Manager Danielle Marshall at (504)561-1046 or email [danielle@raisingthebar.org](mailto:danielle@raisingthebar.org).

## LBF Announces New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation welcomes the following new Fellows:

Jessica Ann Ballard ..... New Orleans  
 Barry M. Barnett.....Alexandria  
 Emmanuel Billy.....Shreveport  
 Cameron D. Clark..... New Orleans  
 R. Brent Cueria..... New Orleans  
 Hayden S. Downs..... Bastrop  
 Carly M. Greenfield..... New Orleans  
 Johanna R. Hajiakbarifini..... Baton Rouge  
 Hon. Lowell Christopher Hazel... Alexandria  
 Mary Catherine Joiner..... Baton Rouge  
 Rebecca Ann McBride .....Alexandria  
 Hon. Joseph H.L. Perez Montes... Alexandria  
 Hon. Robert Lane Pittard ..... Benton  
 Yazan M. Rantisi ..... Baton Rouge  
 Erin E. Rosson..... Lafayette  
 Morgan S. Sanders..... Shreveport  
 Gemma Zuniga..... Shreveport