

President's Message

Multitude of Ways to Become Involved in LBF's Missions

By President H. Minor Pipes III

As the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) president, I encourage every member of the Bar to join in our efforts to ensure that equal access to justice is a reality. The LBF has a multitude of ways you can get involved. First, you can become a Foundation Fellow! In doing so, you can assist firsthand in helping the LBF obtain its goal of making civil legal services available to all. Moreover, being a Fellow will help you comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct regarding pro bono work and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Access to Justice Pro Bono Policy.

The LBF works tirelessly to secure funding for free civil legal aid for Louisiana's disadvantaged. The LBF is the visible public service organization of Louisiana attorneys. It reflects the social conscience and public responsibility of our profession

and our commitment to effective action.

Last month, the LBF board approved more than \$2.2 million in grant funding for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The LBF continues to serve as administrator for the Child in Need of Care (CINC) Program, providing free legal representation to children in foster care throughout Louisiana. Last year, this program alone provided representation to 3,508 children, including more than 16,800 court appearances on their behalf, and participated in more than 2,700 family team conferences. The LBF also serves as administrator of funds provided by the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General from the federal mortgage servicing



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settlement. In partnership with the legal services corporations, Louisiana Appleseed and the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, this program provides free legal representation to affected consumers covered by that settlement.

Another way to get involved is to support the Louisiana Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid. Civil legal aid helps people solve critical, life-changing problems. The mission of the Campaign is to spread awareness and raise funds to address the serious shortage of financing for continued civil legal aid for the most disadvantaged in Louisiana.

For information on how to become a Fellow and on the Campaign, contact the LBF at (504)561-1046 or visit the website, www.raisingthebar.org. You also can follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube. We look forward to you joining us on these important missions.

LBF's 2015-16 Officers Installed

H. Minor Pipes III of New Orleans was installed as the 2015-16 president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation at the 29th Annual Fellows Gala on May 1. Also installed were Vice President E. Jane Sherman, Baton Rouge; Treasurer Valerie Briggs Bargas, Baton Rouge; and Secretary W. Michael Street, Monroe.

Pipes, a founding member of Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C., provides counsel in construction law, general litigation, corporate litigation, insurance coverage, bad faith insurance defense and class action litigation. He received his BA degree from Pennsylvania State University and his JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Sherman is a charter Fellow of the Foundation, becoming involved in 1987 as chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. A former partner of Mangham, Hardy, Rolfs & Abadie and counsel of Phelps Dunbar,



Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson swore in the 2015-16 LBF Officers H. Minor Pipes III, E. Jane Sherman, Valerie Briggs Bargas and W. Michael Street at the 29th Annual Fellows Gala on May 1. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.

L.L.P., she practiced expropriation, utility and real estate law for more than 20 years and now spearheads and volunteers in charitable and community campaigns. She received her undergraduate and JD degrees from Louisiana State University.

Bargas, a founding member of Kinchen, Walker, Bienvenu, Bargas, Reed & Helm, L.L.C., focuses her practice on insurance defense (bad faith, coverage and personal injury) and general casualty defense. She received her BA degree in

environmental science and policy from Smith College and her JD degree from Tulane University Law School.

Street, a partner of Watson, McMillin & Harrison, L.L.P., focuses his practice on construction law, employment law, medical malpractice, real estate and general litigation. He received BA degrees in philosophy and political science from Centenary College of Louisiana and his JD degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.