

## President's Message

## Looking to the Future with Gala and Other Projects

By 2020-21 President Harry J. (Skip) Philips, Jr.

During the public health emergency, the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) has maintained relatively normal operations, including making important decisions about grants for the coming year. We are very excited that we were able to maintain funding for our grants in this time of pandemic. As civil legal aid is a vital component of the public response to, and recovery from, the current public health crisis, support for civil legal aid will become an even more urgent necessity as civil legal problems continue to multiply in the long-term fallout from the pandemic.

We conducted a survey of our grantees to identify service disruptions and other COVID-19 impacts. We identified several programs that had technology/remote access software needs. Emergency grants were approved for software and equipment needs — Acadiana Legal Service Corporation, \$3,545; Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center, \$1,500; Faith House, \$500; Frontline Legal Services, \$1,000; Innocence Project New Orleans, \$1,000; Louisiana CASA Association,

\$500; Southeast Louisiana legal Services, \$3,545; and The Pro Bono Project, \$1,500.

Although this year's Gala was cancelled, many LBF donors made their 2020 Gala sponsorships charitable/business donations. (See Gala donors below.) We appreciate your generosity and support. These donations allow the LBF to continue funding the work of our grantee partners to help those of limited means avoid eviction and disputes over medical and consumer debt, provide protection from domestic violence, and myriad other legal problems as a result of this pandemic.

We held a very successful virtual auction in June. The big-ticket items this year were "A Number One Tiger Fan" by artist George Rodrigue and signed by Coach Ed Orgeron; a Venice day trip for offshore and rig fishing for four donated by Phil Wittmann; and a football signed by New



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Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees and running back Alvin Kamara. Thanks to all who participated in the auction.

Even though events are being cancelled now and meetings are moving to virtual, we do want everyone to mark their calendars for the annual Fellows Gala on Friday, April 23, 2021, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. This will be one to remember! In addition to recognizing the 2019 honorees — Distinguished Jurist Robert H. Morrison III; Distinguished Attorney Marcus V. Brown; Distinguished Attorney Mary Terrell Joseph; Distinguished Professor John M. Church; and Calogero Justice Award recipient Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson — we also will recognize the 2020 honorees, announced in November. Nominations are currently being accepted for these awards. If you are an LBF Fellow in good standing, go to [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org) for nomination forms.

Remember to support the LBF financially. Go to [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org) to make a donation. We have an opportunity to make Louisiana's civil justice system more accessible to all, and we need your help.

## 34th Annual Gala Donors

**Pinnacle:** Entergy Corporation.

**Benefactor:** Red River Bank.

**365 Days of Justice:** Hancock Whitney.

**Cornerstone:** McGlinchey Stafford, P.L.L.C.; and Mouldedoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett, LLC.

**Capital:** Baker Donelson; Calvin C. Fayard, Jr., APC; Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, L.L.C.; Galloway; Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore LLC; Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson; Jones Walker LLP; Phelps Dunbar, LLP; Pipes Miles Beckman LLC; Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert LLC; Taylor Porter; and The

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**Pillar:** Hon. Mary Hotard Becnel; Bourgeois Bennett, LLC; Law Offices of Tim L. Fields; Fishman Haygood, LLP; Frilot L.L.C.; Gouaux Law Firm; Kinchen, Walker, Bienvenu, Bargas, Reed & Helm, LLC; and Liskow & Lewis.

**Foundation:** 22nd JDC Bar Association; Paula A. Ates & Associates, L.L.C.; Judge Roland L. Belsome, Jr.; Patricia R. Bonneau; Hon. Paula Brown; In Memory of Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.; Linda Law Clark; Shannon Seiler Darte LLC; Prof. Robert Force; Deutsch Kerrigan; Hurlburt, Monroe & Ernest; Patricia Krebs; Lafayette Bar Association

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**Gala Supporter:** Jennifer Jones; Teresa King; Gregory Landry; Ivan Orihuela; and Rick Stanley.