

## President's Message

# LBF is Good for the Profession

By 2018-19 President W. Michael (Mike) Street

**A**s the Louisiana Bar Foundation (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 support 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.

I encourage every member of the Bar to become a member of the LBF. It costs as little as \$200 and your membership represents your commitment to fairness and equal access for all in the justice system.

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. Some 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 from across the state to support the LBF's mission to



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preserve, honor and improve our system of justice. The gala is a black-tie event and includes dinner, a silent auction, live entertainment and awards.

In an effort to grow LBF membership, we have removed criteria requiring sponsorship by an existing member of the LBF. I encourage you to go to our website and join today.

Additionally, we have a new program where 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 LBF and donations are tax-deductible.

So, why is the LBF good for the profession? Lawyers do great service work every day by helping others. The LBF is the visible public service organization of Louisiana attorneys and brings members of our profession together, maximizing our efforts to better the profession, our communities and ourselves. Membership in the LBF is a statement of commitment to fairness and equal access for all in the justice system.

We invite you to visit the LBF website at [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org) and join today. For any questions, contact Outreach and Events Manager Danielle Marshall at (504)561-1046 or email [danielle@raisingthebar.org](mailto:danielle@raisingthebar.org).

### Louisiana Bar Foundation Welcomes New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation announces new Fellows:

- Vanessa W. Anseman..... Lafayette
- Henry W. Kinney III..... New Orleans
- Alexis C. Normand..... Metairie
- Frances Lacy Radcliff..... New Orleans
- J. Ralph White ..... New Orleans
- Rachel D. Wortham ..... Shreveport