

## President's Message

# It's What You Do with the Gift That Counts

By Deidre Deculus Robert, 2023-24 President

**A**s president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF), often I am asked why I so passionately support this organization? It's simple. As legal professionals, we've been bestowed with a gift that empowers us to assist those who cannot advocate for themselves. It's what you do with that gift that counts. I believe Booker T. Washington explained it best when he said, "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."

Many of our fellow citizens have encountered difficult circumstances, finding themselves in situations where basic civil legal services are beyond their reach. The LBF's goal is to ensure that all Louisianans — regardless of zip code, background or income level — have ac-

cess to the civil legal services they need.

Because, in Louisiana, there is only one civil legal aid attorney available for every 11,230 income-eligible citizens, thousands of our neighbors are left without services that could be crucial for them. The LBF works with a network of organizations and thousands of volunteers to find ways to close this gap in our justice system.

The LBF provides an opportunity for everyone in the legal community to use their gift and play a part in ensuring that every Louisiana citizen has equal access to our justice system. By working to-



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gether, we can continue to provide civil legal aid to Louisiana's most vulnerable citizens.

As 2023 comes to an end, I want to say thank you to all our supporters who have given of their time, talent and treasure. Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Pop Up Tour in November and showed your support for the mission.

I invite everyone to share your gift today. You can donate online at [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org) or mail directly to the LBF, Ste. 1000, 1615 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112. To find out how you can become a Fellow and get more involved with the work of the LBF, contact the Development Department at (504)561-1046.

## LBF Announces New Fellows

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is acknowledging Fellows who renewed their memberships or joined between Sept. 1-Oct. 13, 2023. Anyone interested in renewing or joining the LBF should contact LBF Development Coordinator Joe Berghausen, (504)561-7314 or email [joe@raisingthebar.org](mailto:joe@raisingthebar.org). Or visit the LBF website at <https://raisingthebar.org/membership-giving/>.

Fellows include: Glenn J. Armentor, Lafayette; Hon. Dale N. Atkins, New Orleans; Hon. Kelly E. Balfour, Baton Rouge; Tracey E. Barbera, Baton Rouge; Kelly E. Barbier, New Orleans; Harvey S. Bartlett, New Orleans; Hon. Roland L. Belsome, Jr., New Orleans; John T. Bentley, Monroe; Hon. William J. Burris, Franklinton; Hon. Robert A. Chaisson, Gretna; Renee M. Chatelain, Baton Rouge; Hon. Wayne Ray Chutz, Livingston; Allison B. Costanza, Denham Springs; Penny Daignepont, Bannockburn; James Davidson III, Lafayette; Hon. Charlene Charlet Day, Baton Rouge; Richard

L. Ducote, Covington; Hon. Daniel L. Dysart, Chalmette; Julianne T. Echols, New Orleans; Lacey Edwards, Jonesville; Victoria Flores, Lafayette; Katherine Geary, Alexandria; Mary Kathleen K. Gilchrist Brucia, Ruston; Franchester P. Gipson, Springhill; Carl S. Goode, Baton Rouge; Donna P. Green, Hattiesburg; Hon. Hunter V. Greene, Baton Rouge; Yolanda Y. Grinstead, New Orleans; Hon. John M. Guidry, Baton Rouge; Hon. Theodore M. Haik, New Iberia; Hon. Kernan A. Hand, Metairie; Hon. Gerard J. Hansen, Covington; William L. Hearne Jr., Shreveport; Hon. Karen K. Herman, New Orleans; Hon. Christopher H. Hester, Baton Rouge; Hon. Guy P. Holdridge, Gonzales; Colleen Jarrott, New Orleans; Hon. Sandra C. Jenkins, New Orleans; Richard B. Jurisich Jr., New Orleans; Dean Madeleine M. Landrieu, New Orleans; Hon. Walter I. Lanier III, Thibodaux; Robert G. Levy, Alexandria; Roy S. Lilley, Biloxi; Ted L. Luquette, Abbeville; Anundra Martin, Metairie; Hon. Walter

E. May, Jr., Homer; Darwin C. Miller, Monroe; Scott T. Minvielle, Kenner; Matthew A. Moeller, New Orleans; Luke Morris, Baton Rouge; Danielle Munro, Lafayette; Pius A. Obioha, New Orleans; Hon. Allison H. Penzato, Baton Rouge; Jeffrey K. Prattini, New Orleans; Margo R. Richard, New Orleans; Joshua D. Roy, Baton Rouge; Valerie T. Schexnayder, Baton Rouge; Hon. Alvin R. Sharp, Monroe; Kathryn F. Simino, Baton Rouge; Jason R. Smith, Monroe; Michael D. Smith, Metairie; Michelle M. Sorrells, Baton Rouge; Sue A. Spilsbury, New Orleans; Hon. James B. Supple, Franklin; Hon. Danyelle M. Taylor, Gretna; Hon. Mitchell R. Theriot, Baton Rouge; Hon. Jefferson R. Thompson, Shreveport; Hon. Marie B. Trahan, Crowley; Michael L. Tyler, Baton Rouge; Hon. Jewel Welch, Jr., Baton Rouge; Richard W. Westling, Washington; and Hon. Elizabeth P. Wolfe, Baton Rouge.