

**May 13, 2010**

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Dennette Young  
phone: (504) 561-1046  
cell: (504) 450-1879  
e-mail: dennette@raisingthebar.org

## **Educational Courtroom to be Built in Local High School**

The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) has partnered with Lake Charles-Boston Academy of Learning (LCB Academy) to build a fully functioning courtroom at their Lake Charles campus. The courtroom will be fitted with judge, jury and advocate seating and will serve as the setting for mock trial competitions, speaker functions and future court proceedings.

The LBF Law Signature School Project provides funds for building a courtroom within schools that have been designated as "Law Signature Schools" by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. Law Signature Schools like LCB Academy, have a core, law-related education curriculum available to high school students. The LBF project goal is to foster interest and participation in the legal profession and to provide a better understanding of the justice system. Regardless of ultimate career choices, students will profit from having a greater understanding of the law and the political process.

"This courtroom-classroom will create a unique environment to teach students about the law while encouraging them to participate and have a voice in their community," said LBF President Drew Ranier. "This space will allow us to introduce and engage a new generation in our state and national justice system."

Established in July 2007, the Lake Charles-Boston Academy was designed to create a center for extension learning services that expands and enhances the educational, artistic and career preparation of students throughout the Calcasieu School System. The law-related education curriculum will be available to the 11 schools in the Calcasieu School System and will be open to schools in Jeff Davis, Allen, Beauregard and Cameron Parishes as well.

The LBF's Southwest Community Partnership Panel (CPP) designated \$15,000 to pay for the construction of the courtroom. Under the direction of Judge David Painter, the Southwest CPP works outside of the LBF's regular grant process to identify new areas of need for LBF funding, foster collaboration, respond to arising community needs and encourage local involvement in the designation of LBF grant funds.

###

*The Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity organized under the state of Louisiana. We exist to preserve, honor and improve our system of justice by funding, developing and otherwise promoting efforts which enhance the legal profession, increase public understanding of the legal system and advance the reality of equal justice under the law. The LBF supports programs that provide free legal services for the poor in all 64 parishes of the state of Louisiana.*