



# LOUISIANA BAR FOUNDATION

FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

Summer Newsletter 2017



## Meet Your 2017-18 Officers

Barnett, Ralston, Bargas, and Street

### **President, Valerie Briggs Bargas**

Bargas is a founding member of Kinchen, Walker, Bienvenu, Bargas, Reed & Helm, LLC. Her practice is focused on insurance defense (bad faith, coverage, & personal injury) and general casualty defense. She received her BA in Environmental Science and Policy from Smith College and her J.D. from Tulane University Law School.

### **Vice President, W. Michael Street**

Street is a partner of Watson, McMillin, & Street in Monroe. His practice is focused on construction law, employment law, medical malpractice, real estate and general litigation. He received BA's in Philosophy and in Political Science from Centenary College of Louisiana. He received his J.D. from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

### **Treasurer, Amanda W. Barnett**

Barnett is General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Red River Bank and Red River Bancshares, Inc., with corporate offices in Alexandria. Prior to joining the bank, she was with Gold, Weems, Sues, Bruser & Rundell where her practice focused on general corporate law and commercial litigation. She has a B.A. in English Literature from Newcomb College of Tulane University, and a J.D. from Louisiana State University.

### **Secretary, Christopher K. Ralston**

Ralston is a litigation partner and litigation group coordinator at Phelps Dunbar LLP. His practice is focused on business disputes, including litigation of real estate, intellectual property, tax and licensing disputes. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary and his J.D. from Tulane University Law School.

**Nominations for 2017 Distinguished Honorees and Calogero Justice Award must be submitted electronically by Friday, September 15, 2017.**

### ***2017 Distinguished Honorees***

Each year at the Gala, the LBF honors a Louisiana distinguished jurist, attorney and professor who, by reason of his or her professional activities have distinguished themselves in their chosen career and have brought credit and honor to the legal profession.

### ***2017 Calogero Justice Award***

The Calogero Justice Award honors an individual or organization for a significant contribution to the Louisiana justice system.

Award nomination forms are available on the website, at [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org). Please take the time to submit the name(s) of nominees from your area. **Be sure to include a brief statement on nominees.** All nominations must be submitted to [danielle@raisingthebar.org](mailto:danielle@raisingthebar.org) by **Friday, September 15, 2017.**

If you have any questions, please contact [danielle@raisingthebar.org](mailto:danielle@raisingthebar.org) or Danielle J. Marshall at (504) 561-1046.

### **Board of Directors**

*President, Valerie Briggs Bargas*

*Vice President, W. Michael Street*

*Treasurer, Amanda W. Barnett*

*Secretary, Christopher K. Ralston*

Charles C. "Chuck" Bourque, Jr.

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Hon. John Davidson

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Edmund J. Giering IV

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H. Dunbar Healy

Julie M. Lafargue

Michael J. Mestayer

Alainna R. Mire

Kerry A. Murphy

Harry J. "Skip" Philips, Jr.

Dona Kay Renegar

Deidre Deculus Robert

E. Jane Sherman

Shayna L. Sonnier

Hon. Max N. Tobias, Jr.

Tina Crawford White

Sharonda R. Williams



# LOUISIANA BAR FOUNDATION

FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID

## \$6.7 Million for Social Justice Initiatives 2017-18

### Annual/Sustaining Funding

**\$3,923,330**

<b>Building Capital Development</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
Innocence Project New Orleans	\$25,000
Metro Centers for Women and Children	\$25,000
Shreveport Bar Foundation	\$25,000
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services	\$25,000

<b>Children's Legal Services</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	\$37,500
First Grace Community Alliance	\$17,500
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights	\$42,500
LouisianaChildren.org	\$10,000
T.E.A.M.S.	\$45,000
The Advocacy Center	\$22,500

<b>Law-Related Education</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
Baton Rouge Bar Foundation	\$35,000
Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center	\$13,000
Court Watch NOLA	\$6,000
Louisiana Center for Children's Rights	\$9,500
Louisiana Center for Law & Civic Education	\$48,000
LSBA - Diversity Committee	\$3,500
LSBA - Young Lawyers Division	\$10,000
Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany	\$25,000

<b>Domestic Violence Programs</b>	<b>\$499,602</b>
Beauregard Community Concerns, Inc.	\$38,237
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans/Project S.A.V.E.	\$41,008
Chez Hope, Inc.	\$68,400
D.A.R.T. of Lincoln	\$35,030
Faith House, Inc.	\$29,081
Faith House, Inc./Family Justice Center of Central La.	\$15,174
Jeff Davis Communities Against Domestic Abuse	\$23,575
Metro Centers for Community Advocacy	\$40,000
Oasis	\$22,200
Project Celebration, Inc.	\$40,000
Safe Harbor, Inc.	\$16,000
Southeast Spouse Abuse Program	\$16,000
St. Bernard Battered Women's Program	\$25,000
The Haven, Inc.	\$37,897
The Wellspring Alliance for Families, Inc.	\$52,000

<b>Legal Service Corporations</b>	<b>\$2,100,000</b>
Acadiana Legal Services Corporation	\$1,061,563
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services	\$1,038,437

<b>Other Legal Service Providers</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans	\$33,000
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge	\$22,500
Catholic Charities of North Louisiana	\$38,500
CrescentCare	\$10,000
Ella Project	\$11,000
Frontline Legal Services	\$40,000
Innocence Project New Orleans	\$120,000

Louisiana Center for Children's Rights	\$5,000
Lower 9 <sup>th</sup> Ward Home Ownership Association	\$10,000
Loyola University Workplace Justice Project	\$20,000
St. Frances Cabrini Immigration Law Center	\$50,000
The Advocacy Center	\$25,000
The Southwest Louisiana Law Center	\$15,000

<b>Pro Bono Projects</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
Baton Rouge Bar Foundation	\$70,000
Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project, Inc.	\$29,500
Lafayette Parish Bar Foundation	\$68,900
Shreveport Bar Foundation	\$46,700
Southwest Louisiana Bar Foundation	\$24,900
The Pro Bono Project	\$110,000

<b>Self-Represented Litigants Programs</b>	<b>\$66,600</b>
Central Louisiana Pro Bono Project	\$5,000
Louisiana Civil Justice Center (East Carroll Parish)	\$10,000
Louisiana Civil Justice Center (Natchitoches Parish)	\$10,000
Louisiana Civil Justice Center (Tangipahoa Parish)	\$10,000
Louisiana Library Association	\$7,200
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (Lafourche Parish)	\$8,000
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (St. Tammany Parish)	\$8,400
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (St. Charles Parish)	\$8,000

### Child in Need of Care

**\$1,990,000**

### Discretionary Funding

**\$135,000**

#### Jock Scott Community Partnership Panel Grants

*awarded throughout the year.*

### Special Funding

Access to Justice Commission	\$35,000
Access to Justice Fund Grants	\$50,000
Board Training for Grantees	\$10,000
Disaster Relief	
Lawhelps.org and Probono.net	\$12,650
Louisiana Applesseed	\$125,000
Louisiana Civil Justice Center	\$150,000
Oral Histories	\$2,000
Pelican Center for Children and Families	
Pro Hac Vice	\$125,400

### Scholarships, Fellowships, and other funding projects

Kids' Chance Scholarships	\$59,000
Scholar-in-Residence	\$3,000
Child Welfare Fellowships	\$120,000

Community  
Partnership Panel  
Chairs

*Acadiana CPP*  
Shannon Seiler Dartez

*Bayou Region CPP*  
Eugene Gouaux, Jr.

*Capital Area CPP*  
Linda Law Clark

*Central CPP*  
Camille Jackson

*Greater Orleans CPP*  
Paula A. Ates

*Northeast CPP*  
Thomas Moore Hayes IV

*Northshore CPP*  
Tom D. Synder, Jr.

*Northwest CPP*  
Jerry Edwards

*Southwest CPP*  
Theresa Ann Barnett  
Jackey White South

Committee Chairs

*Budget/Investment*  
Amanda W. Barnett

*Communications*  
Christohpher K. Ralston

*Development*  
Christohpher K. Ralston

*Education*  
Prof. Russell Jones

*Governance*  
E. Jane Sherman

*Grants*  
Amanda W. Barnett

*Kids' Chance*  
Michelle Sorrells  
Sherry Watters

# NEWSNEWSNEWS

## Economic Impact Study Update - Investing in Civil Legal Aid has a Ripple Effect on the Community

The 2016 Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis, or SROI, showed that dollars spent on Louisiana's civil legal aid providers are well spent and deliver unmistakable economic returns to the state. Key findings:

- In fiscal year 2016, Louisiana's civil legal aid organizations provided assistance in 26,437 legal matters consisting of over 100 types of civil legal problems including family law, housing, healthcare, public benefits, consumer protection, community support issues, government, and legal system issues.
- The net economic impact value resulting from Louisiana civil legal activities during the year totaled \$93,977,000.
- The total net social return on investment for Louisiana's civil legal aid programs during the 2016 fiscal year was 873%.
- **For every \$1 invested in Louisiana's civil legal aid services, these programs deliver \$8.73 in immediate and long-term consequential financial benefits.**

Civil legal aid saves taxpayer dollars by keeping families together, reducing domestic violence, helping children leave foster care more quickly, reducing evictions, increasing access to benefits and offering citizens a way out of poverty. Funding for civil legal aid has a ripple effect, impacting not only the families served, but the community at large. Schools, businesses, government agencies and the state as a whole benefit from resolving civil legal problems. For the full report go to [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org).

### [www.raisingthebar.org](http://www.raisingthebar.org) Has a New Look

Check out the LBF's "new look". The website has undergone a full redesign and includes the LBF's new logo and tagline. The design was based on current, leading technologies incorporating the fundamentals of civil legal aid funding. The website has a clean, modern look and includes photos, stories, and videos highlighting women, children, families, the disabled, and elderly people showing the tremendous, life-changing impact of civil legal aid.

It includes microsites for our Kids' Chance Scholarship Program, the Fellows Gala, and the Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid. The website also features a Fellow resources section where Fellows can stay up to date with their membership, make a donation, update contact information, RSVP for a meeting, nominate a colleague for Fellowship, or join a committee.

### Grant Applications open October 1

New this year, all grant applications will be submitted online through our new grants management system. The new system is user-friendly and will make it easier to submit applications, populate and summarize data, and provide for the submission of electronic reports. Grant applications will open on October 1.

### Statewide Case Management System Gets an Upgrade

In order to receive LBF funding, grantees must meet rigorous reporting guidelines specifying the work they are doing and the clients being assisted. Many years ago, to facilitate statewide collaboration and consistent reporting, the LBF supported and assisted in implementing a Statewide Case Management System. The LBF is currently working with a consultant and the civil legal aid community, including LSCs and Pro Bono Projects across the state, to upgrade the system and software to meet current and expected future needs. The LBF expects to launch the upgraded system and software on April 1, 2018.

## Please Continue to Support the LBF

We rely on the generosity of our Fellows to contribute to the LBF's fundraising success. Fellows make an annual dues payment or unrestricted donation. Examples include annual support, year-end, LSBA check-off, miscellaneous donations, and pledge payments.

*Contributions to the LBF ensure justice is a reality – not just for those who can afford it – but for everyone in Louisiana.*

**Make your donation today by using the enclosed envelope.**

# 31st Annual Fellows Gala and Awards



The Louisiana Bar Foundation celebrated the **31st Annual Fellows Gala** Friday, April 21, 2017. The gala and live auction was held at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. Honored were the 2016 Distinguished Jurist **Jeannette Theriot Knoll**, Distinguished Attorney **Donna D. Fraiche**, Distinguished Attorney **Thomas M. Hayes III**, Distinguished Professor **Howard W. L'Enfant, Jr.**, and Calogero Justice Award recipient **Joseph R. Oelkers III**.

Hayes, Oelkers, LBF 2017-18 President Valerie Briggs Bargas, Fraiche, Knoll, L'Enfant \*

## Friday, April 20, 2018 - Save the Date

32nd Annual Fellows Gala at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans

**Chuck Davoli** received the 2017 President's Award at a Kids' Chance event on May 12. LBF 2016-17 President E. Jane Sherman presented Davoli the award in recognition of his outstanding support, volunteer service and dedication and advancement of the mission and goals of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. Davoli was instrumental in bringing the Kids' Chance Scholarship Program to Louisiana in 2004 and has served on the LBF Kids' Chance committee for 12 years. This year, Davoli led a special effort to have Governor John Bel Edwards officially proclaim Louisiana Kids' Chance Awareness week.



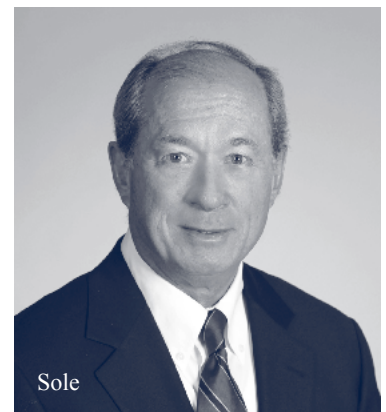
Sherman and Davoli



2016-17 LBF President E. Jane Sherman presented **Donna C. Cuneo** the 2017 President's Award during the Fellows Annual Meeting luncheon on April 21 in New Orleans. The President's Award was given to Cuneo in recognition of her outstanding support, dedication and advancement of the mission and goals of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. Cuneo has served the LBF for 22 years, the last 15 as Executive Director.

Cuneo and Sherman\*

**Emmett C. Sole**, a member of the law firm Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, L.L.P. in Lake Charles received the 2017 LBF Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award during the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Annual Meeting in June in Destin, Florida. Sole received the award in recognition of his long-standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice and for upholding the standards of ethics and consideration for the court, litigants, and all counsel. \$1,000 has been donated in his name to The Southwest Louisiana Law Center in Lake Charles.



Sole

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