

Schiff Receives Louisiana State Bar Association's Professionalism Award

Opelousas attorney Leslie J. Schiff received the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Committee on the Profession's Professionalism Award during the LSBA's Midyear Meeting in New Orleans Jan. 23.

Schiff, who served as LSBA president in 1989-90, received the award for his outstanding leadership, guidance and assistance in the creation and implementation of the law school professionalism orientation programs and the LSBA's character and fitness programs and for his lifelong dedication to the bench, bar and profession. Barry H. Grodsky, chair of the Committee on the Profession, presented the award.

The LSBA's Committee on the Profession annually presents law school professionalism programs to first-year law students at the state's four law schools to instill the importance of professionalism as early as possible in the students' legal studies. The Bar Admissions Education Initiative (the character and fitness component) is designed to help focus future lawyers on the absolute importance of guarding their ethical and professional character and reputation.

Schiff, a 1954 graduate of Opelousas High School, received his law degree in 1960 from Louisiana State University Law School, where he was a contributor to the *Louisiana Law Review*. He has a general practice of law in Opelousas (The Schiff Law Corporation), with concentration on lawyer ethics, governmental ethics and judicial ethics issues.

He has served the legal profession in various local and state capacities throughout his career. His service to the LSBA is particularly extensive. He served on the LSBA Board of Governors from 1977-79 and again from 1981-83 and as president-elect in 1988-89, president in 1989-90 and past president in 1990-91. He also has served on several LSBA committees, including the Medical-Legal Interprofessional Committee,



Opelousas attorney Leslie J. Schiff, left, received the Louisiana State Bar Association Committee on the Profession's Professionalism Award on Jan. 23. Schiff received the award from Barry H. Grodsky, committee chair. Photo by Louisiana State Bar Association.

the Task Force on Advertising, the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Law Reform Committee, the Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct,

the Lawyers in Transition Committee and the Subcommittee to Advise Law Students on Bar Admissions.

Schiff served as the president of the St. Landry Parish Bar Association in 1969-70 and as vice chair of the Louisiana Bar Foundation in 1986-87. He has served on the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association/Louisiana Association for Justice's Board of Governors since 1979, also holding the positions of secretary in 1977-78, president-elect in 1978-79, president in 1979-80 and as a member of various substantive and legislative committees. He also serves on the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers.

He is a frequent lecturer on ethics issues at continuing legal education seminars and serves as a judge for Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center moot court competitions. He also is a member of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center's Board of Trustees and the Chancellor's Council.

MIDYEAR MEETING



Victoria McCardell, second from left, a social studies teacher at Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans, was the 2010 recipient of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE)/Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President's Award for achievements in teaching civics and law-related education. She received her award from LCLCE Past President Val P. Exnicios, far right, at the LSBA Midyear Meeting in January. In addition to receiving a plaque, McCardell received funds to purchase law-related materials for her classroom. Also attending the event were LSBA President Kim M. Boyle, left, and Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson. McCardell received a BA degree in history, *summa cum laude*, in 2006 from Loyola University in New Orleans. Photo by J.F. Bergeron Studio and Gallery.