

Judge Ricks Receives Judges in the Classroom Award

Judge Brenda Bedsole Ricks with the 21st Judicial District Court received the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education's (LCLCE) Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award, recognized for her dedication and support of law-related education. The award was presented by LCLCE President Judge Randall L. Bethancourt during the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Midyear Meeting in January.

Judge Ricks was elected judge of Division E, 21st JDC (Livingston, St. Helena and Tangipahoa parishes) in 1996. She was the first woman elected judge in the district since the 1950s. She received her undergraduate degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. She studied at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and is a graduate of The Fund for American Studies. She earned her



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law degree from Southern University Law Center. She is a three-time graduate of the

National Judicial College and is a graduate of the first Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Leadership Institute.

Prior to taking the bench, she was a legislative staff attorney for the Louisiana Senate; an assistant district attorney for the 21st JDC; a contract attorney for Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services; and city attorney for the Town of Roseland.

Judge Ricks was inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame in 2013 and honored on the Law Center's Judicial Wall of Fame in 2014. She is a Sustaining Fellow with the Louisiana Bar Foundation. She is a member of the 21st JDC Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Florida Parishes Inn of Court, the American Judicature Society and the National Association of Women Judges.



2020 LSBA Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA



Lauren Beth LeBato, left, a teacher at Alfred M. Barbe High School in Lake Charles, was presented the 2020 President's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Civics Teacher by Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President Robert A. Kutcher during the LSBA's Midyear Meeting. The award is jointly presented by the LSBA and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education. Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.



The Women's Personal and Professional Development Workshop, "Becoming Your Best Self: Take Command, Be Empowered and Own Your Future," at the LSBA's Midyear Meeting was presented by, from left, Linda P. Clark, Kean Miller LLP; Erin W. Latuso, Forman Watkins and Krutz LLP; Deidre D. Robert, moderator, executive counsel for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; and Jade Brown Russell, principal, The JBR Firm.



The CLE, "What Non-Immigration Practitioners Need to Know about Immigration Laws," was presented at the LSBA Midyear Meeting by, from left, Leah Spivey, Gasparian Spivey Immigration; and Baton Rouge attorney Paul H. (Woody) Scott.



The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Diversity Committee's Pipeline to Diversity & Outreach Subcommittee and Outreach Committee hosted a free CLE seminar on Jan. 16 in conjunction with the LSBA Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge. The session, "LSBA: Who We Are and How We Serve Our Members," was presented by Michael B. Victorian, Phelps Dunbar, LLP, president of the Baton Rouge