

# Westgate High Teacher Receives President's Award of Excellence

**J**ennifer L. Mestayer-Kidd, a teacher at Westgate High School in New Iberia, is the 2016 recipient of the President's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Law-Related Education. The award, presented jointly by the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education (LCLCE) and the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA), recognizes outstanding Louisiana elementary, middle or high school teachers who impart knowledge and understanding of law and civic education and demonstrate the use of interactive learning techniques.

LCLCE Board member Judge C. Wendell Manning and LSBA President Mark A. Cunningham presented Mestayer-Kidd with a plaque of appreciation and funds to purchase law-related education materials for her classroom. The presentation was conducted at a reception during the LSBA's Midyear Meeting in New Orleans.

Mestayer-Kidd has taught school for 15 years. She is the Social Studies Department chair at Westgate. She also sponsors the Diversity Club, chairs the Staff Appreciation Committee, heads the Homecoming Committee and serves on the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support Committee.

"This quote by Tommy Jeff (as my



**Jennifer L. Mestayer-Kidd, center, the Social Studies Department chair at Westgate High School in New Iberia, is the 2016 recipient of the President's Award of Excellence for Outstanding Law-Related Education. Presenting the award were Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education Board member Judge C. Wendell Manning, left, and Louisiana State Bar Association President Mark A. Cunningham.**  
*Photo by Matthew Hinton Photography.*

students call Thomas Jefferson) sums up why I chose to leave my career as an English teacher (10 years, five as department chair) and start my career as a civics teacher — 'All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will

of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression,'" Mestayer-Kidd said.

## Letters to the Editor Policy

1. At the discretion of the Editorial Board (EB), letters to the editor are published in the *Louisiana Bar Journal*.

2. If there is any question about whether a particular letter to the editor should be published, the decision of the editor shall be final. If a letter questioning or criticizing Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) policies, rules or functions is received, the editor is encouraged to send a copy of that letter to the appropriate entity for reply within the production schedule of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*. If the editor deems it appropriate, replies may be printed with the original letter, or in a subsequent issue of the *Louisiana Bar Journal*.

3. Letters should be no longer than 200 words.

4. Letters should be typewritten, signed and, if applicable, include LSBA member number, address and phone number. Letters from non-members of the LSBA also will be considered for publication. Unsigned letters are not published.

5. Not more than three letters from any individual will be published within one year.

6. Letters also may be clarified or edited for grammar, punctuation and style by staff. In addition, the EB may edit letters based on space considerations and the number and nature of letters received on any single topic. Editors may limit the number of letters published on a single topic, choosing letters that provide differing perspectives.

Authors, editorial staff or other LSBA representatives may respond to letters to clarify misinformation, provide related background or add another perspective.

7. Letters may pertain to recent articles, columns or other letters. Letters responding to a previously published letter should address the issues and not be a personal attack on the author.

8. No letter shall be published that contains defamatory or obscene material, violates the Rules of Professional Conduct or otherwise may subject the LSBA to civil or criminal liability.

9. No letter shall be published that contains a solicitation or advertisement for a commercial or business purpose.