



**Twenty-first Judicial District Court Judge Brenda Bedsole Ricks is the recipient of the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education's (LCLCE) Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award.** 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 1950's. Judge Ricks received her undergraduate degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. She studied at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. and is a graduate of The Fund for American Studies. She obtained her 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 State Senate; an Assistant District Attorney for the 21st JDC; a Contract Attorney for DCFS; and City Attorney for the Town of Roseland.

She was inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame in 2013, and honored on their Judicial Wall of Fame in 2014. She was featured in an interview in the Baton Rouge Bar Association magazine in June, 2014; in the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association magazine in 2010; and has been a continuing legal education presenter. Judge Ricks is a Sustaining Fellow with the Louisiana Bar Foundation, a member of the 21st JDC Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Florida Parishes Inns of Court, American Judicature Society, and the National Association of Women Judges. She belongs to numerous civic and business organizations and provides copies of *The U. S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It* to the public when speaking to schools and organizations.

The Judge Benjamin Jones Judges in the Classroom Award honors a member of the judiciary who has contributed greatly to the law-related education of our youth. Judge Ricks is recognized for her dedication and support of law-related education.