



2021-22
LOUISIANA STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG
LAWYERS
DIVISION
DIRECTORY

www.lsba.org/YLD



2021-2022 Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Officers and Council

YLD Officers 2021-22

Graham H. Ryan Chair

Graham H. Ryan is a partner in the New Orleans office of Jones Walker LLP, where he litigates complex business disputes in federal and state courts. He graduated, *summa cum laude*, in finance from Louisiana State University, received his law degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center (*Louisiana Law Review*) and is an alumnus of the Harvard Negotiation Institute's dispute resolution program.

Graham has served on the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council as 2020-21 chair-elect, 2019-20 secretary and as the delegate to the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates. He currently serves on the LSBA's Legislation Committee and Access to Justice Committee. He was a member of the 2014-15 Leadership LSBA Class. He received the LSBA YLD Chair's Award in 2016 and 2018 and was named as a 2017 Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow for his role in leading various access to justice initiatives. He has served as a council member for the Louisiana State Law Institute, the ABA YLD, the New Orleans Association of Defense Counsel and the Jefferson Bar Association YLD.

He was named to the 2020 Leadership in Law Class by *New Orleans CityBusiness* and to the 2018 "40 Under 40" Class by *Gambit Weekly*. He was honored as a "Top 40 Young Lawyer" nationally by the ABA in 2018.

In his community, Graham is a board member of Lakeview Civic and a commissioner of the Lakeview Crime Prevention District. He is a former chair of HandsOn New Orleans, a nonprofit volunteer center founded after Hurricane Katrina that engaged more than 60,000 volunteers to rebuild south Louisiana. He also is an attorney volunteer and board member of the Pro Bono Project and several other community organizations.

Graham and his wife Erin are the parents of two sons.

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Graham H. Ryan



Danielle L. Borel



Senae D. Hall

Danielle L. Borel Chair-Elect

Danielle L. Borel is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP. She received a BS degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2011 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2014 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center (*Louisiana Law Review*, 2012-14; Order of the Coif). She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014.

Dani has served on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council as the 2020-21 secretary and as the American Bar Association's (ABA) Young Lawyers Division representative. She received the LSBA YLD's Bat P. Sullivan, Jr. Chair's Award in 2019. She is a leader in the ABA's Young Lawyers Division and the ABA Health Law Section. She was recognized as an Emerging Young Lawyer in Healthcare by the ABA Health Law Section in 2019 and as an ABA Young Lawyers Division Star of the Quarter in spring and fall 2017 and fall 2019. She also is a member of the Louisiana Hospital Association and has participated in the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Holiday Star Program.

In her community, she is a member of the board of directors and chairs the advisory board for Lighthouse Louisiana. She was twice recognized with the Lighthouse Louisiana Door Knocker Award for her service. She also volunteers for PulseBR (American Heart Association) and as a judge for the LSU Law Center.

Dani and her husband, Nathan Judice, have been married for 10 years and recently welcomed their first child.

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Senae D. Hall Secretary

Senae D. Hall is an assistant district attorney in the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office in Shreveport. She also is the Human Trafficking Victims Diversion coordinator. She received a BA degree in mass communications in 2008 from Dillard University and her JD degree in 2011 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2011.

Senae has served as the at-large representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division Council. She was a member of the 2018-19 Leadership LSBA Class and a member of the Class Awards Committee. She also volunteered as a mock trial competition judge from 2017-20.

Senae is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court. She is currently the Social Media chair for the Shreveport Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

She was recognized as the Teen Court Volunteer of the Year in 2018 and the Abounding Faith Temple Youth Leader Volunteer of the Year in 2017. She was featured as the February 2019 Member Spotlight by the Shreveport Bar Association Women's Division and was a 2019 panelist for Macy's Black History Month Historical Black Colleges and Universities Program. She was recognized as a 2021 "Top Attorney" by *SB Magazine* and was selected for the 2020-21 Dillard University's "40 Under 40" list.

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Carrie LeBlanc Jones
Immediate Past Chair

Carrie LeBlanc Jones is the chief legal officer and general counsel for the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN), where she focuses on administrative and regulatory law. She has successfully represented the LSBN in state and federal court, served as prosecuting attorney in disciplinary matters, and advised board members and staff on a variety of legal issues. Prior to joining the LSBN, she was a partner at the law firm of Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP. She received a BA degree in mass communication from Louisiana State University, her JD/BCL degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center and a MBA degree from Southeastern Louisiana University. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2008.

Carrie has served as chair, chair-elect, secretary and District 5 representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Council. She helped plan the inaugural Louisiana Young Lawyers Conference, co-chaired the Richard N. Ware High School Mock Trial Competition, served as the Professional Development Seminar coordinator, chaired the Bridging the Gap Committee and served on the Awards Committee. She received the LSBA YLD Chair's Award in 2016 in recognition of her ongoing commitment and service to the Richard N. Ware High School Mock Trial Competition. She served as a member of the *Louisiana Bar Journal* Editorial Board and was a member of the 2013-14 Leadership LSBA Class.

Her commitment to the legal profession includes two terms on the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board. After the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed her to a second term, she served as the board's chair in 2017, the youngest board member to hold this position. She is a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and serves on the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Capital Area Community Partnership Panel.

In her community, she is a parishioner of St. George Catholic Church. She also serves on the board of direc-



Carrie LeBlanc Jones



Collin R. Melancon



Kristen D. Amond

tors for Livingston Parish SADD. She and her husband, Aaron Jones, have been married for 10 years and have two children.

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YLD Council 2021-22

Collin R. Melancon
District One Representative

Collin R. Melancon is a partner/owner of Mansfield, Melancon, Cranmer & Dick, LLC, in New Orleans. He received a bachelor's degree in international studies in 2011 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2015 from Loyola University College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015.

Collin serves as the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Young Lawyers Division's representative on the Louisiana Judicial Council. He has been a speaker for several conferences and CLEs, including the LSBA Young Lawyers Conference, the Bridging the Gap CLE program and the LSBA Professionalism Orientations.

He is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and the Louisiana Association for Justice. He served on the Planning Committee for the Pro Bono Project's Justice for All Ball in 2019. He was recognized as a *Louisiana Super Lawyer* "Rising Star" in 2020 and 2021.

While in law school, he was a member of the *Loyola Law Review* and was selected as a *Law Review* board member in his 3L year. He received the Spirit of St. Ignatius Award for Outstanding Law Graduate (highest award given to a graduating law student) at Loyola Law School. He also received the LSBA Civil Code Award at Loyola Law School for graduating first in his class in the civil law division.

Collin and his wife, Jillian Melancon, have been married for three years.

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Kristen D. Amond
District One Representative

Kristen D. Amond is a founding member of Mills & Amond, LLP. She served as a clerk to Judge Susie Morgan of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. In law school, she served as an intern for Judge Brian A. Jackson of the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana. She received a BS degree in management in 2010 from Tulane University and her JD/DCL degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2016 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center (editor-in-chief of the *Louisiana Law Review*).

Before attending law school, she taught second and third grades in New Orleans charter schools and has been an advocate for public education ever since.

Kristen has a special commitment to Louisiana's economic development, its culture, and, in particular, its underserved communities. As a member of the Eastern District of Louisiana's Civil Pro Bono Panel, she regularly volunteers her professional time to the representation of plaintiffs in civil rights cases.

She serves on the boards of the New Orleans Federal Bar Association Younger Lawyers Division and Emerging Philanthropists of New Orleans. She is a member of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute's Class of 2021 and an alumna of Council for a Better Louisiana's Leadership Louisiana program. She is currently an adjunct professor at Tulane University, teaching a class on the First Amendment and the media.

Kristen loves all things New Orleans and looks forward to traveling the world with her wife, Nancia Sterling.
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Rachal Cox Cassagne
District Two Representative

Rachal Cox Cassagne is an assistant United States attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She received a BA degree in English in 2011 from Louisiana State University-Shreveport, a MA degree in literary studies in 2013 from Universiteit van Amsterdam and her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, in 2016 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016.

Rachal is a member of the Jefferson Parish Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. She is an observer with the Louisiana State Law Institute for the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. She participated in Forum 35's John W. Barton, Sr. Community Leadership Program in 2018.

In her community, she attends St. Anthony Church in Gretna. Rachal and her husband, Craig Cassagne, Jr., have been married for two years.

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Rory V. Bellina
District Two Representative

Rory V. Bellina is an associate in the Metairie office of Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Murray, Recile, Stakelum & Hayes, LLP. He received a BS degree in 2010 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2013 from Loyola University College of Law. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in May 2014.

Rory is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Health Law Section. He is a member of the American Health Law Association and the American Bar Association's Health Law Section. He was recognized by *New Orleans Magazine* as one of the "Top Lawyers" in 2021.

In his community, he is president of the St. Dominic School Board and vice president of the St. Dominic Fathers Club. He is a board member of the Lakeview Civic



Rachal Cox
Cassagne



Rory V. Bellina



Megan E. Réaux



Justin S. Brashear

Improvement Association.

Rory and his wife Danielle have been married for 10 years and are the parents of three children.

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Megan E. Réaux
District Three Representative

Megan E. Réaux is an associate in the Lafayette firm of Hill & Beyer, APLC. She handles both plaintiff and defense litigation. She received a BA degree, *magna cum laude*, in English literature and Spanish in 2008 from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and her JD/DCL degree in 2011 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2011.

Megan is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's Insurance, Tort, Workers' Compensation and Admiralty Law Section. She is a frequent contributor to the *LAFreeLegalAnswers* online program.

She is a member of the Lafayette Bar Association and the Louisiana Association for Justice. In 2010, she received the Public Interest Law Society Fellowship for work with Hearts of Hope in Lafayette.

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Justin S. Brashear
District Four Representative

Justin S. Brashear is the founder of Brashear Law, LLC, in Lake Charles, where he focuses on plaintiff's personal injury litigation and first-party bad faith property damage litigation. He received a BS degree in political science in 2010 from Louisiana State University and his JD degree in 2013 from Southern University Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2013 and in Texas in 2019. He is admitted in all Louisiana state courts; the U.S. District Courts for the Western, Middle and Eastern Districts of Louisiana; the State Bar of Texas; the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas; and the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Justin was a member of the 2019-20 LSBA Leadership Class and currently serves on the Louisiana State Bar Association's Outreach Committee.

He previously served as a board member for the Southwest Louisiana Young Lawyers Division. He is a member of the National Trial Lawyers Association, the Louisiana Association for Justice and the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association. He was recognized by the National Trial Lawyers as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" civil plaintiff trial lawyers.

Justin and his wife Autumn have been married for 13 years and are the parents of a daughter.

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Loren Shanklin Fleshman
District Five Representative

Loren Shanklin Fleshman is a partner in the Baton Rouge firm of Smith Shanklin Sosa, LLC. She received a BS degree in secondary education (concentration in history) in 2005 from Louisiana State University and her JD/GDCL in 2010 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2010.

Loren participated in the Louisiana State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) Symposium in 2016 and 2017. She is the 2018 recipient of the YLD's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

She is a former chair of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's (BRBA) Young Lawyers Section and, since 2019, has served as a director-at-large for the BRBA's board of directors. She is a member of the Louisiana Association for Justice. She received the Volunteers in Public School's Exceptional Volunteer Award in 2006 while she was a teacher and program coordinator of an after-school program. In 2010, she was recognized for volunteering more than 100 hours of pro bono services.

In her community, she is involved in the K.I.D.S. (Karing is Doing Something) Program and is a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

Loren and her husband, David C. Fleshman, have been married for five years and are the parents of three children.

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Camille E. Walther
District Five Representative

Camille E. Walther is a financial advisor with The Walther-duPassage Group at Morgan Stanley in Mandeville. She received a BA degree in mass communications and public relations in 2013 from Louisiana State University and her JD/GDCL degree in 2016 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2016.

In her community, she is involved with the Covington Rotary Club's Feeding the Needy Program and Open Table: Relationships Transform Communities. She is a member of the Junior League of Greater Covington.

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Joshua J. Dara, Jr.
District Six Representative

Joshua J. Dara, Jr. is an associate in the Alexandria firm of Gold, Weems, Bruser, Sues & Rundell, APLC. He received a BS degree in finance in 2010 from Louisiana State University and a JD/GDCL degree in 2014 from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2014.

Josh is a member of the Crossroads American Inn of



**Loren Shanklin
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Camille E. Walther



Joshua J. Dara, Jr.



Jessica L. Fitts



**Elizabeth P.
(Liza Beth)
Grozinger**

Court of Alexandria/Pineville, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, the Defense Research Institute and the Alexandria Bar Association. He recently served as president of the Kiwanis Club of Pineville.

In law school, he was a member of the Christian Legal Society and the Black Law Students Association. He also received recognition for outstanding advocacy skills in LSU's NITA Trial Advocacy Program.

Josh and his wife, Aziza Dara, have been married for five years.

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Jessica L. Fitts
District Seven Representative

Jessica L. Fitts is a family law attorney with the Monroe firm of Cummins & Fitts, LLC. She focuses her practice primarily on divorce, child custody and child support. She received a bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, in psychology in 2015 from Louisiana Tech University and her JD degree and Certificate in Public Interest in 2018 from the University of Alabama School of Law. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2018.

At Louisiana Tech, she was a member of Sigma Kappa Sorority, the Honors Program, Student Recruiters, the Tech Leadership Council and Student Government. She was a member of the Orientation Student Leaders and was recognized by "Who's Who of Louisiana Tech" in 2015. In law school, she was a member of the Bench and Bar Association, the National Trial Advocacy Team, the Public Interest Student Board and Raise the Bar student mentoring board.

Jessica resides in West Monroe with her husband, Greg Hawkins.

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Elizabeth P. (Liza Beth) Grozinger
District Eight Representative

Elizabeth P. (Liza Beth) Grozinger is an assistant attorney general with the Louisiana Department of Justice and is based in the Shreveport office. She received a BS degree in psychology in 2005 from Louisiana State University and her JD degree in 2012 from Southern University Law Center. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2013.

Liza Beth is a member of the Shreveport Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Harry V. Booth/Judge Henry A. Politz American Inn of Court.

In her community, she is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Shreveport.

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Justin A. Jack
At-Large Representative

Justin A. Jack is an assistant United States attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Louisiana. He received his undergraduate degree in 2012 from Carleton College in Northfield, MN, and his JD degree in 2015 from Tulane University Law School. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2015.

Prior to his current position, he was an associate with Adams and Reese, LLP. He also worked as a judicial law clerk for Chief Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux, Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, and for Chief Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Justin is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Diversity and Outreach committees. He was a member of the 2019-20 Leadership LSBA Class and is a member of the 2020-21 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Scholars Class.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Baton Rouge and Greater New Orleans chapters of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc.

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Megan S. Peterson
ABA YLD Representative

Megan S. Peterson is a partner at Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP, in New Orleans, where she represents local, regional and national clients in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. Although she handles a variety of civil litigation matters, her practice focuses on defense of clients in the retail, restaurant, hospitality, trucking and transportation industries. She is licensed in all state and federal courts in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Megan received her BA degree in political science and business administration from Louisiana State University. She earned her JD degree, *magna cum laude*, from Loyola University College of Law and was honored as a William L. Crowe, Sr. Scholar. While at Loyola, she served as print managing editor of the *Loyola Law Review* and participated in Moot Court. She also studied cultural property and arts law in Siena, Italy, with Tulane University Law School.

She is an active member of the Defense Research Institute, serving on the steering committees for both the Young Lawyers Division and the Retail and Hospitality Committee. She is also active in the American Bar Association. She is a former president of the Association for Women Attorneys in New Orleans and has consis-



Justin A. Jack



Megan S. Peterson



**Josef Philip
Miranda Ventulan**

tently been selected as a *Louisiana Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" in civil litigation defense since 2014.

Megan and her husband, Matt McCluer, have been married for eight years and are the parents of one child.

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Josef Philip Miranda Ventulan
Young Lawyer Member/ABA House of Delegates

Josef P. Ventulan is the staff attorney for Judge Lisa M. Woodruff-White of the Family Court of East Baton Rouge. He also instructs students as a professional responsibility fellow of Southern University Law Center. He received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from Southern University Law Center, where he graduated first in his class and received a certification in tax law. He served as the editor-in-chief of the *Southern University Law Review*.

Josef is a junior council member of the Louisiana State Law Institute, a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Publication and Pro Bono Committees, and the Socials Committee chair of Forum 225, a young professionals' organization in Baton Rouge. He also is a member of the Wex S. Malone American Inn of Court.

His professional interests include economic and tax policy, access to justice, the Innocence Project and local economic development. His articles have been published in the *Southern University Law Review*, the *American Bar Association for Law Students* and the *Baton Rouge Lawyer*.

He is the husband of Wilson Alvarez.
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