

**BIOGRAPHIES  
OF THE  
PRESENTERS,  
MODERATORS, AND  
PANELISTS**

*(In alphabetical order)*

## Biography of F. King Alexander LSU President and Chancellor



Dr. F. King Alexander was named the President and Chancellor of Louisiana State University in 2013. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Alexander was president of California State University, Long Beach (2005-2013) one of the nation's largest public universities located in southern California. During his more than seven-year tenure at California State University, Long Beach, Dr. Alexander was twice named the California State University Student Association (CSSA) "President of the Year," which represents all 23 California State Universities and its over 440,000 students.

Prior to becoming president of California State University, Long Beach, Dr. Alexander was president of Murray State University in Kentucky (2001-2005) and was a faculty member at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, where he was the director of the graduate higher education program.

A Kentucky native who grew up in north Florida, Dr. Alexander received his Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in higher education administration with a focus on finance and educational policy analysis, and a Master of Science degree from the University of Oxford, Oxford, England in comparative educational studies.

As a teacher and administrator, Dr. Alexander has received many honors, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education Alumni Achievement Award (2002) and has research university faculty affiliations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Study of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE) and Cornell University Higher Education Research Institute (CHERI).

Dr. Alexander also has been asked to represent public higher education colleges and universities on numerous occasions to the United States Congress on issues of college affordability, student indebtedness, and institutional efficiency and effectiveness in efforts to address many of the growing challenges facing American higher education. Due to his national recognition and involvement on higher education issues, Dr. Alexander has served on numerous U.S. higher education and statewide organizational leadership boards where he remains very active.

Dr. Alexander and his wife, Shenette, have three children: Kylie, Savannah and Madison.

## Biography of Kathleen M. Allen



Kathleen M. Allen is a native of Baton Rouge and an alumnus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and, in 1996 she graduated from Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center with the degree of Juris Doctor.

Ms. Allen has served as a staff attorney for the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program since November, 1997 and currently serves as Ethics Administrator and General Counsel for the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

As the Ethics Administrator, she provides legal and administrative services for the Board with respect to its administration and enforcement of Louisiana's Code of Governmental Ethics, Campaign Finance Disclosure Laws and Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Lobbying Disclosure Laws.

## Biography of Kyle Ardoin



First Assistant Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin First Assistant Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin was appointed to his current position by Secretary of State Tom Schedler. Ardoin oversees the daily operations of the Secretary of State's Office in addition to working alongside Secretary Schedler regarding policy and legislative issues.

Ardoin is an experienced leader and involved citizen of Louisiana. He graduated from Louisiana State University where he majored in political science and minored in speech and communications. He has more than 30 years of experience working in both the private and public sectors as he continues to serve the State of Louisiana.

He began his own successful lobbying business, specializing in health care and educational services representation, in 1993. Ardoin has extensive experience in state government having worked for the Louisiana House of Representatives, served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Capitol Area Humans Services District, Health Care Reform Commission and other policy committees and commissions. Additionally, he served a four-year term on the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board. Prior to his current position, Ardoin served as executive director for the Concrete and Aggregates Association of Louisiana Inc.

In addition to his professional service, Ardoin serves as the secretary of the Louisiana Board of Directors for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He is married to the former Letti Lowe of Port Allen, La. and has one child. Ardoin, originally from Ville Platte, currently resides in Baton Rouge where he is a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

## Biography of State Representative Regina Ashford Barrow District 29



Regina Ashford Barrow joined the Louisiana House of Representatives as the Louisiana State Representative for District 29 in 2005. In 2011, Representative Barrow was re-elected to serve her 3rd consecutive term as the State Representative for District 29.

As a State Legislator, Representative Barrow has been actively involved in her duties. She currently serves on the Ways and Means committee, Health and Welfare Committee, the Municipal, Parochial, and Cultural Affairs Committee and the Joint Capital Outlay Committee. In addition, she is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, a position she has

held for two consecutive years.

Through her role as a State Legislator, Representative Barrow has past some very pertinent pieces of legislation, which includes: ACT 264 that provides National Guard members who re-enlist in the National Guard the opportunity to receive free college tuition up to a doctorate degree and ACT 98, which creates a new economic development district for the North Baton Rouge area. Representative Barrow is also a strong advocate for ethics in our state government.

In the 2007 Legislative Session, she served as a leader in the push for Ethics in State Government by successfully passing legislation that requires elected officials to participate in mandatory ethics training. Representative Barrow is also proud to have played an integral part in passing legislation to protect and prevent the birth of premature babies to reduce infant mortality in the State of Louisiana. Not only is Representative Barrow active in the state of Louisiana, she is also heavily involved in nationwide organizations. Representative Barrow currently serves as the State Director for three national organizations, Women in Government, Women in Legislature Lobby, and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.

Regina Ashford Barrow is the loving wife to James Barrow, Sr. and together they have two adult children: Shanrika Barrow and James Barrow, Jr. She and her family currently attend North Boulevard Macedonia Church pastored by Clifton Sanford and reside in the Glen Oaks area. Representative Barrow believes that the ability to lead others and influence change is important ingredients to leadership. Her leadership over the past years has done both. Representative Barrow lives by the motto: To make "**A**" difference is good, but to make "**The**" difference is better!

## Biography of Shirley D. Bowler



Shirley Bowler joined the Louisiana Department of Insurance as Deputy Commissioner of Management and Finance in March 2008, shortly after completing four terms as the State Representative for House District 78, which includes City of Harahan and other unincorporated areas of Jefferson Parish. She currently serves as special assistant to the Chief Deputy Commissioner of the LDI.

In 1991, Bowler became the first Republican woman ever elected to the Louisiana legislature. While in the legislature, Bowler served 14 years on the House Insurance Committee, 16 years on the Civil Law and Procedure Committee and 12 years on the Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. She was an active member of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). Bowler was also active with Louisiana Republican Legislative Delegation, the Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation and the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus.

Prior to joining the Louisiana Department of Insurance, Bowler was a writer and editor for *the Texas Surplus Line Reporter & Insurance News*. Until moving to Baton Rouge, Bowler was a member of the Rotary Club of Harahan and served it as president, secretary, treasurer and vocational service director.

Bowler is a former high school English teacher, an avid Scrabble player, and a native of New Orleans. She graduated in 1971 from the University of New Orleans, with a BA in English secondary education. She and her husband reside in Baton Rouge; they have three grown children and five grandchildren.

## **Biography of Senate President Pro Tempore and State Senator Sharon Weston Broome District 15**



Sharon Weston Broome's role as a public servant has spanned over two decades. Broome currently serves as President Pro Tempore of the Louisiana State Senate. Senator Broome served in the Louisiana House of Representatives (District 29) for 12 years and was the first female elected as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives. Broome is the only woman to have served in a ranking leadership position in the House and Senate.

During her tenure in the Legislature, Senator Broome has been a vocal advocate for issues surrounding children and families. Her passion is reflected in a number of bills she has authored over the years including The Children's Trust Fund Bill, Kinship Care Subsidy Program, Arts in Education, Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Law. Sen. Broome has lead initiatives to protect victims against domestic violence and has been honored by the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is a recipient of the Morehouse College's Gandhi, King, Ikeda Community Builder's Award as well as the 2014 NAACP of Baton Rouge Life Time Achievement Award.

With two degrees in communications, Sharon has established herself as a nationally recognized speaker and communications consultant. She is the president of Sharon Broome Communications, Inc. " In addition, she served for five years as the "2 On Your Side" reporter for WBRZ-TV (ABC-Baton Rouge). She is an active member of Star Hill Church.

Senator Broome is happily married to Marvin Alonzo Broome, and they are the proud parents of three children and three grandchildren.

## Biography of Charmaine Degruise Caccioppi



Charmaine Degruise Caccioppi serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana and oversees United Way's Governmental Relations and Community Impact departments. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the government relations strategies related to United Way's three goal areas, including education, income and health, through the development of relationships with key internal and external constituents. These relationships result in financial and legislative support while strengthening the organization's visibility and image throughout the public sector. She ensures that the organization's objectives are developed, managed and attained for each area of responsibility annually by maintaining knowledgeable management staff capable of accomplishing the goals and objectives set forth by the Board of Trustees while staying informed on current and emerging trends in the field of voluntarism, human care services and fund raising techniques.

Mrs. Caccioppi established a relationship with The George Rodrigue Foundation allowing \$1 million in funding to be secured for United Ways statewide. She also assisted with securing funding for The George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts (GRFA), an Art Emerging Therapy for Children A+ School Education Curriculum to help children in trauma after Hurricane Isaac. Her many other accomplishments, include, but are not limited to, securing a \$90,000 United Way Worldwide grant for the purpose of establishing a United Ways of the Gulf Coast and advocating for the historical passage of Domestic Violence bills this 2014 Louisiana Legislative Session.

Mrs. Caccioppi began her career in May of 1978 as an Executive Assistant and State Director to United States Senator J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana. During her 20 years of service with the United States Senate, Mrs. Caccioppi worked on major economic development projects throughout Louisiana and Nationwide. These projects included transportation infrastructure development for ports, airport, highways and railroads; defense and university research projects; flood control and hurricane protection projects; natural resources research; major federal procurement for several federal agencies.

Mrs. Caccioppi also served as U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu's Executive Assistant following her election to the United States Senate. Her duties included case management and the statewide coordination of transition responsibilities.

Mrs. Caccioppi later served as the Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Economic Development for the New Orleans Regional Chamber of Commerce, MetroVision and Greater New Orleans, Inc. Her responsibilities included being the intergovernmental

liaison on the local, state and federal levels and provided direct oversight over all economic development activities for MetroVision. Her expanded responsibilities included Legislative advocacy along with supervising the business development plans for the Oil and Gas Industry, Environmental Technology and Maritime Clusters. Mrs. Caccioppi served as the senior staff representative for the Gulf Coast Regional Chamber Coalition and the Metro Chamber Alliance. She was actively involved in investor relations and served as President of the Japan/Louisiana Association from 2000-2002.

Mrs. Caccioppi was a candidate for the 3rd Congressional District in 2004 where she received the coveted endorsement of the Alliance for Good Government.

From 2005 to 2013 Mrs. Caccioppi served as the President of the Louisiana Association of United Ways (LAUW). During her tenure as President of LAUW she partnered with the Louisiana Association of Non-Profits to publish "Community Solutions" which provided evidence-based policy research on how to combat long term systemic poverty. She was a strong advocate for many local and national initiatives, such as helping to coordinate the inaugural statewide **Louisiana's Promise High School Dropout Summit**. Mrs. Caccioppi worked with Senator Ben Nevers to establish the Louisiana Child Poverty Council and Harlem Children's Zone Practitioners Institute. She successfully secured a \$750,000 National American Red Cross Mental Health Family Resilience Project grant to ensure Louisiana State Health Sciences Department of Education faculty had the tools necessary to better detect and treat children suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders. Her commitment to bring national attention to the overall rebuilding of our communities devastated throughout Louisiana during the natural disasters of Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Ike allowed Louisiana to secure an additional \$1.5 million. Mrs. Caccioppi secured \$500,000 in state funding through the Louisiana Department of Children and Family for the Louisiana 2-1-1 Information and Referral System as well as a **\$381,000 Federal Earmark** to assist with its capacity building.

Mrs. Caccioppi graduated from Central Lafourche High School, attended Nicholls State University and is now recognized as a Distinguished Fellow with the Loyola University Institute of Politics. She resides in Metairie, Louisiana with her husband, Rodney Peter Caccioppi. They have two beautiful daughters, Candice Charmaine and Staci Marie and two handsome grandsons Hudson and Lennon.

## Biography of Dr. Belinda Creel Davis



Dr. Belinda Creel Davis is an associate professor of political science and deputy director of the Public Policy Research Lab at Louisiana State University. Her research interests include state politics, welfare policy, and program evaluation. She has conducted policy evaluations for governmental agencies in Louisiana, Florida, and Michigan.

She and her family live on the LSU campus while Belinda serves as a faculty in residence for the west side of LSU. As the mother of three boys in public school, Belinda advocates for quality public education as the president of a local Parent Teacher Association and through her involvement in One Community One School District.

## Biography of Alisha Duhon



Alisha Duhon joined Adams and Reese in 2008 and is a Governmental Affairs Advisor (non-lawyer) with the Governmental Relations team in Baton Rouge. Her experience encompasses work within the oil and gas, engineering and construction, and tourism industries.

Alisha works with legislators and the executive branches of government in order to assist the Governmental Relations team support its clients' endeavors. She also helps keep clients informed of new information that impacts businesses in Louisiana.

Her other significant contributions include:

- Broadening the amount of information clients receive, including events and information coming out of the weekly legislative session and state departments that would be of interest to their companies.
- Keeping clients in the loop and abreast of RFPs, contracts and other business opportunities.
- Distributing articles and information from press sources and state departments that are of interest to current and prospective clients.
- Expanding the amount of information to the Government Relations team about opportunities that affect clients' interests.

For nearly a decade, Alisha served as Communications Coordinator for the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA). In this capacity, she worked closely with Louisiana legislators, and had contacts with over 900-association members. Alisha oversaw the editorial, advertising and marketing of LOGA's printed and online materials. Additionally, she conducted fundraisers and tracked legislative bills and affairs.

## Biography of Stephen Handwerk



Stephen Handwerk serves as the Executive Director for the Louisiana Democratic Party. Under the leadership of Chairwoman and Senator Karen Carter Peterson, Handwerk has helped to lead the Louisiana Democratic Party to record breaking fundraising levels and increased the staffing levels to attract highly qualified campaign professionals. Building a bench of well qualified and adequately resourced candidates remains a top goal of the LDP and while Democrats have struggled in the south, we are seeing huge strides forward and are aggressively recruiting candidates to run for all levels of

government.

Handwerk lives in Lafayette with his partner of 14 years.

## Biography of Jim Harris



With more than 40 years of experience working in all facets of governmental and public affairs, Jim possesses the ability to quickly assess an issue, determine the critical components and recommend the appropriate solution. Jim specializes in strategic communications planning, organization and response, and has developed and implemented many communications issues management and public/community relations programs nationwide.

In addition, he has lobbied the legislature, executive and regulatory branches of Louisiana government for clients on a daily basis for more than 30 years. Over the years, Jim has developed and managed numerous multi-industry coalitions in the legislative and public policy arenas. Prior to establishing HDA, Jim served as a working member of the media, press secretary to a Louisiana governor and held key management positions in several state agencies, including those managing transportation, health, economic development and environmental quality.

In addition, Jim specializes in political and media consultation and has served as a campaign coordinator in several statewide elections.

## Biography of Sarah Ann Holliday-James



Sarah has been working with populations of people from all walks of life since she was thirteen (13) years old volunteering and participating in middle and high school programs as well as attending Sunday school and church at New Hope Baptist Church in Blirstown. She graduated from Glen Oaks High School in 1979 at the age of sixteen (16). In January 1980, Sarah began her college career at Louisiana State University, graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, where she took part in demonstrations demanding more minority students and professors. Sarah went on to earn a Masters Degree in Counseling

Education from Southern University in 1987. Then, she earned her Paralegal Certificate from LSU Paralegal Studies Program in 1990.

On June 17, 2010, Sarah made history when she took the initiative to charter, Capital City Republican Women, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Republican Women club in the state along with twelve other charter members. Sarah was the first African American club president of the republican women club in Louisiana. Because of Sarah's drive for diversity, she was elected on March 30, 2011 to serve until March, 2013 as Louisiana Federation of Republican Women Vice President for Region 6 (which consisted of 8 parishes) at the convention held in Monroe, Louisiana. As the immediate past vice president of Louisiana Federation of Republican Women for Region 6, she represented the Republican women of Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, Evangeline, Livingston, Point Coupee, St. Landry, and West Baton Rouge parishes. This too was an historical event because Sarah is the first African American to hold this position since 1953, the inception of the organization. As a result of her diversity mission and attempting to unite people because she feels "we are one nation under God and we should not cut our blessings off because of the word "Republican." If someone treats you right, it should not matter what their party or race or any other disparities have been her message to the party.

Sarah has always felt working with people "in need of" is her calling. Sarah has always advocating for fairness, diversity, education and equal pay as well as fighting against racism, crime, big government, less taxes, poverty and equal rights for all people. Sarah believes in shared sacrifice and all people should be treated like human beings.

Sarah was appointed Commissioner to the Planning and Zoning Board in December 2011 by the East Baton Rouge Metro Council. Sarah is the current president of Capital City Republican Woman. She is the former President of Baton Rouge Unit of Parliamentarians and Phi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

located in Gonzales, Louisiana. On June 27, 2014 – Sarah received the 2013-2014 Humanitarian Award from Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc – an Opelousas Alumni Chapter. On June 28, 2014 – Sarah was awarded the Nelson Mandella Humanitarian Award from ReBirth Magazine in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Throughout her adult life, she has been involved in community service activities on a variety of levels. Sarah was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority 30 years ago. She is a charter member of Phi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Gonzales, Louisiana and served as the first president of this chapter from 2000 – 2002.

Sarah entered into politics as a grassroots campaign volunteer. She has worked on numerous campaigns over the years. Sarah believes it is all of our civic duties to make sure we know more about the character of our elected officials before we give them our vote. She encourages citizens everywhere “to do good even when nobody is watching you.” Other memberships include: Sustainer member of the Junior League of Baton Rouge-Louisiana Association of Parliamentarians, National Association of Parliamentarians, Baton Rouge Paralegal Association, National Association of Legal Assistants, Miracle Place Toastmasters, Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals and LSU and SU Alumni Association.

Sarah Ann Holliday-James is the wife of Larry Arteal James, Jr. She is the mother of one son, Jeremy and one stepdaughter, Brianna. She is a native of Blairstown, Louisiana and has been a resident of Baton Rouge since 1978.

## Biography of State Representative Katrina R. Jackson District 16



State Representative Katrina R. Jackson, born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Welton and Patricia Holman and Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Linda Jackson. She has been blessed to work in various areas which offer service to the community and Kingdom of God.

Attorney Jackson is the State Representative for Louisiana House District 16. She was elected to the legislature in 2011 to represent the constituents of this district which covers parts of Ouachita and Morehouse Parishes. Her current legislative committee assignments are: Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development; Commerce; Health and Welfare; House Executive Committee; House Appropriations; Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and House and Governmental Affairs.

Rep. Jackson is the Chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. She is a member of the Democratic Caucus; Secretary of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus; and a member of the Louisiana Rural Caucus.

She received a Bachelor's degree in Pre-Law and Legal Studies from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and a Juris Doctor Degree in 2004, from Southern University Law Center. Prior to being elected, Ms. Jackson was a former legislative staffer as an Attorney for Labor & Industrial Relations Committee of the Louisiana House of Representatives and as Executive Director of Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. In 2012, Ms. Jackson opened her private law firm, Katrina R. Jackson LLC, 1051 Kansas Lane, Monroe, Louisiana.

In 2013, Rep. Jackson became the first legislator to receive the Legislator of the Year Award from Louisiana Municipal Association Black Caucus; Louisiana Conference of Black Mayors Award and the Network Coalition Award in the same year. In April, 2014, Rep. Jackson received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Southern University Law Center.

Ms. Jackson attributes her accomplishments to not just having a dream, but having a dream that lines up with God's plan for her life. She believes her footsteps are ordered by God and everyday she works to allow God to guide her in the process of realizing her dream. Her family worships at Riverside Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, LA.

## Biography of Natalie LaBorde



Natalie LaBorde currently serves as the Policy Director in the Office Governor Bobby Jindal in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Prior to this role, she served as the Senior Policy Advisor as well as the Assistant Executive Counsel to the Governor.

Natalie is a native of Lafayette, Louisiana and has a degree in political science from Louisiana State University and a Juris Doctor degree from LSU Law Center. Prior to attending law school, Natalie worked in Sydney, Australia for the “The A21 Campaign”, an international anti-human trafficking organization that focuses on education, awareness and the rehabilitation of victims.

While in law school she co-founded the LSU student organization “Tigers Against Trafficking” which still remains very active in the community today.

## Biography of Brad A. Lambert



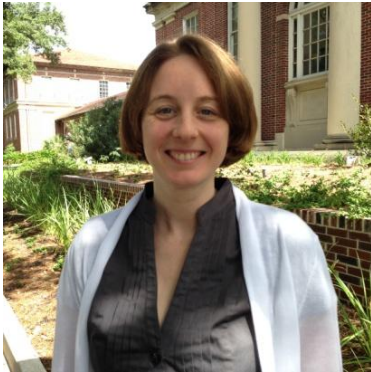
Brad specializes in issues management and strategic communications planning. Further responsibilities include media and governmental relations, public opinion analysis, media and crisis communications training and litigation public relations.

He does considerable writing about and tracking of politics and public policy issues, with expertise in environmental justice. In the 1990s, Brad had three scholarly articles published in an international business journal. Brad is one of HDA's primary media and communications trainers, having conducted more than 20 media training sessions for clients across the U.S. in 2007 alone. He has also responded to a number of actual crisis events over the years to assist clients and support their interests.

Brad is a 1991 cum laude graduate of Louisiana State University with a B.A. in Journalism, and in 1997, he earned a Master's of Public Administration degree, also from LSU. He has also served as an adjunct instructor at LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication. Before joining HDA in 1992, Brad wrote about sports for Baton Rouge's only daily newspaper, The Advocate. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and the Alumni Board for LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication.

In November 2006, Brad was recognized by the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report as a "40 Under 40" recipient, and he was a 2007 inductee into the Redemptorist High School Hall of Fame.

## Biography of Anna Mitchell Mahoney



Anna Mitchell Mahoney earned a B.A. from Loyola University in Mass Communications, a M.A. in Women's Studies from the University of Alabama, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University. She joined the Newcomb College Institute at Tulane University as an Administrative Assistant Professor of Women's Political Leadership in August 2014.

Prior to joining Tulane, Anna served as the Director of the Knowledge and Power Mission Course and Barbara Voorhees Mentor Program at Douglass Residential College at Rutgers University. She has taught a range of courses at the university level including American Government, Congressional Politics, American Race Relations, and Women and American Politics. She is currently teaching a service learning Women's Legislative Leadership course in partnership with the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus.

Anna's research is centered on women's representation and gendered institutions which is explored in her dissertation on the origins of women's caucuses in state legislatures. Anna received an American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship in 2011-2012 in support of her work.

## Biography of Liz Mangham



A founding member of Southern Strategy Group's Louisiana office, Liz Mangham serves as its Managing Partner. Liz primarily represents clients before the legislative and executive branches of Louisiana government, focusing on issues related to commerce and industry, civil law, criminal justice, education, health care, and transportation.

With keen political skills acquired from managing numerous elections, Liz applies winning campaign strategies to complex lobbying battles. Liz combines essential grassroots and coalition-based support with the media to deliver comprehensive, effective strategies.

A graduate of Brenau Women's College, Liz was recognized as a "National Rising Star" by Campaigns and Elections Magazine and an "Up and Comer in Louisiana Politics" by the Times of Acadiana. Liz's consulting work has earned award-winning recognition for various political and public policy firms.

## Biography of State Representative Barbara Norton District 3



Representative Barbara Norton is a lifelong resident of the Mooretown area. She is a mother of three, a grandmother of eight, and she has two great grandchildren. Rep. Norton is a member of Praise Temple Full Gospel Baptist Cathedral Church, led by Bishop Larry L. Brandon and Co Pastor Wanda Brandon located in Shreveport, LA.

Rep. Norton was the first African American woman to be elected to The Louisiana Democratic State Central Committee as First Vice Chair.

She is the recipient of multiple awards and recognitions. Rep. Norton was honored as Citizen of the Year by the Veteran Hospital. This award was presented to her because she raised the most funds to help the homeless veterans. Through this effort,

Rep. Norton was honored as Mayor for a Day, where she received the Key to the City and a Proclamation. Rep. Norton has always been concerned with the safety of her community. She initiated a meeting with all the Ministers for the purpose of coming together to discuss and present solutions on how to make their city safer and how to make it an overall better city for all its residents. She also believes in providing channels educational events for children.

Rep. Norton served on The Stern Committee for Past President Clinton and Past Vice President Gore (both terms). She served on Candidate Gore for President Campaign and John Kerry Campaign for President. She also served on the committee for past Governor Kathleen Blanco, former United States Senator Mary Landrieu and Attorney General Buddy Caldwell. Rep. Norton served on the Stern Committee for President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign and she organized the Get Out To Vote Rally. At the rally, over 600 people attended and through that effort over 700 people voted early. She also organized a tea for women where she invited elected Officers, Civic Right Leaders, Community Leaders, Businesswomen, Religious and Civic Leaders and Educators.

She has been a delegate to the National Democratic Convention for over 16 years and served on the credential committee. Rep. Norton was the founder of The Mooretown Community Library in 1990 in Shreveport, LA. After 9 years, a 3.6 million dollar library was built in the community. The library was built through the funding of the city of Shreveport and Caddo parish. In 2007 and 2008, she honored over 1500 honor roll students throughout the city and presented each one with a certificate for their hard work as an "A" student.

Rep. Norton, was honored with a Badge of Courage Award on behalf of the NAACP at the State Conference in Lake Charles, LA for her efforts with the Gustav and Rita hurricanes. She was also featured on the cover of "Dream Magazine" which is a local magazine in Shreveport, LA.

She received "The Hardest Working Award" from Tom Joyner. This award honored her for her hard work as a community leader for going "Beyond Expectations in 2007. She collected can goods for the elderly and delivered them from door to door. Rep. Norton also collected can goods for the Caddo Parish Food Bank for the purpose of giving to people in need. She spearheaded an effort that presented over 100 cans to the elderly, where many of the cans were delivered to their doors. Individuals who received this service were generally without transportation.

Every year she sponsors a free back to school shoes giveaway to under privilege children. As of 2015, Rep. Norton along with partnering sponsors, were able to give away over 21,000 brand new pairs of shoes. She serves as a radio talk show host on KOKA, 980 AM in Shreveport, LA for over 19 years on Monday's at 6:30PM - 7:30PM (The Radio Group) [www.koka.am](http://www.koka.am).

Rep. Norton has served as a member of The House of Representatives for The State of Louisiana for over 7 1/2 years and she was re-elected to the House of Representatives in November 2011.

She serves on the following committees in the legislature: Committee for Administration of Criminal Justice, Municipal, Parochial & Cultural Affairs and the committee of Transportation, Highways, & Public Works. She is a member of the State Central Committee for The Louisiana Democratic Party and served as a delegate four times during the national conventions for the past 16 years and one term as an alternate.

She also serves on the committee for Women in Government. In 2012, she was elected to hold the Member At Large position for the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus. She is presently serving in this capacity. In that same year, she was elected as Secretary for the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and she currently serves in that position. Rep. Norton, served on the national committee for credentials at the national democratic convention in 2007. She is the founder of the African American month parade celebration. This event has been celebrated for over 27 years during the month of February, with over 150,000 people in attendance. This event is broadcasted on the ABC network/KPXJ-CW21 for four hours during the celebration.

## Biography of Suchitra J. Satpathi



Suchitra J. Satpathi has been involved in legislative and governmental affairs, lobbying initiatives, and political campaigns in Louisiana for many years. Suchitra currently serves as Director of State, Federal Relations and Boards and Commissions for Mayor Mitch Landrieu in the City of New Orleans. She has served in this capacity since 2010.

She oversees the annual legislative agenda, representing the City of New Orleans at the Louisiana State Legislature—often testifying at legislative committee meetings. Suchitra has garnered successes in advocating for the City’s legislative and capital outlay agendas. In this role, she also manages recommendations for mayoral appointments for boards and commissions.

Suchitra has been constantly involved in Louisiana politics and governmental affairs focusing on both state-wide and municipal agendas related to tax policy, finance, education, governmental ethics, and healthcare.

Prior to joining the Landrieu Administration, Suchitra served as Executive Director for the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. As Executive Director, she managed a team that increased fundraising efforts for the caucus as well as created the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) PAC.

Suchitra is a practicing attorney in Louisiana and holds a Bachelor’s degree in English from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Master’s Degree in African American Studies from Temple University and a J.D. from Temple University.

## Biography of State Representative Patricia Haynes Smith District 67



Representative Patricia Haynes Smith is serving her second term in the Louisiana House of Representatives, where she represents the residents of District 67-East Baton Rouge Parish, and advocates tirelessly for all of Louisiana's poor, least educated, and incarcerated. Most of the legislation she sponsors effects positive changes to the state's laws for these individuals.

She serves on the following highly sought-after committees in the House of Representatives: Appropriations, Education, Labor and Industrial Relations, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and House Administration. She is also the immediate past chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, serving two terms.

(Her second term ended January 31, 2013.)

Representative Smith's diverse experience has prepared her for success at the State Capitol:

- 10 years as a public-school teacher
- 22 years in industry (ExxonMobil) in technical and community affairs positions
- Three years in public sector community outreach (Louisiana State University)
- Four terms on the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board—two terms as president
- Member of numerous community and professional organizations, including the YWCA, the Baranco-Clark YMCA, Holiday Helpers, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women), and the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL), which chose her as a Henry Toll Fellow
- Service on state and national boards and commissions, including the Louisiana Board of Regents' Governance Commission, the Louisiana Workforce Commission Advisory Committee, the Baton Rouge 4-H Advisory Leadership Council, the NCSL Nurse-Family Partnership Advisory Board, the Louisiana Women's Policy & Research Commission and the NCSL Women's Legislative Network's Advisory Council
- Louisiana delegate, Democratic National Convention 2012
- Lifelong member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
- Graduate of Kent State University (Ohio), bachelor of science degree

Known for being a servant leader, espousing equality, social justice and human rights for all, Representative Smith believes public service is a "24/7" job, second only to

family. She has voiced her constituents' concerns in the Legislature on such important issues as dismantling the state's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) through school mergers and creation of a single supervisory board that governs all state universities, funding private-school education with public monies despite its unconstitutionality, and destroying the state's healthcare system for the poor without an approved plan for its replacement.

Her leadership role in defeating the proposed merger of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and University of New Orleans (UNO) captured the attention of Southern University and Grambling University students and alumni and of HBCUs across the nation. Just recently, the 19th Judicial Court agreed with Representative Smith, ruling as unconstitutional the use of public monies to fund private-school education. Rep. Smith has been a strong advocate for penal reform and women's rights.

In appreciation for her efforts at the Legislature and in the community, Representative Smith has received numerous commendations and honors, nationally and locally. She was recently named by The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL-Women) as the *2014 Woman of the Year*, which is the organization's highest award. Some of Representative Smith's other commendations and honors include the first *Fannie Lou Hamer Political Award* for distinguished leadership from Grambling University, the NAACP's *Distinguished Political and Government Award*, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Baton Rouge Sigma Alumni Chapter's *Outstanding Citizen for Public Service Award*. In 2013 Representative Smith has received Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s *Politics and Social Justice Award*, the *Monument Builder Award* by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., was elected to the NOBEL-Women Executive Board as the *Recording Secretary*, and was named the *2012 State Representative of the Year* by the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association. In addition, Rep. Smith has been appointed to the *Louisiana Women's Policy and Research Commission*, and to the *NCSL Women's Legislative Network Board and Advisory Council*.

Representative Patricia Haynes Smith is a *Silver Soror* member of Nu Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha in Baton Rouge. She and husband, Freddie Smith, Jr., have six children and 12 grandchildren.

## Biography of Dawn Starns



Dawn Starns has served as State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business Louisiana since 2014. In her current role, Starns manages an association of over 4300 small business owners statewide in addition to managing NFIB's Louisiana SAFE Trust PAC.

With nearly two decades of experience in governmental affairs, public policy, fundraising and political consulting, Starns has built and maintained relationships with statewide elected officials, Louisiana Legislators, the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and local government elected officials, their staffs, business leaders across the state and her fellow lobbying colleagues. Starns is known for work ethic, leadership, knowledge of a broad array of issues and ability to build

consensus.

Prior to NFIB/LA, Dawn Starns served as Executive Director of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation (CRLD) since its inception in 2008. In that role, Starns built the operating model for the new Delegation, was responsible for passage of the Delegation's legislative package and managed the day-to-day affairs of the organization. Additionally, Starns fundraised for the organization as well as for the Delegation's PAC. While managing the Delegation, Starns also had a number of clients including Toni Higginbotham for First Circuit Judge, Hunter Greene for Family Court Judge, CATS Tax Proposition, Leadership for Change Education Summit, Legislators Charity Fund and Kimble Development.

Starns took a break from direct involvement in Louisiana politics while she worked as the Strategic Initiatives Manager for Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers. In a position created for Starns within the company, Dawn wore many hats by serving as a resource to the Cane's Leadership Team on various issues that posed potential threats to the business model, financial situation, crew or customers while concurrently being responsible for the company's crewmember recruitment and retention program. However, Starns never lost sight of public policy and managed their relationships with the National Restaurant Association, American Meat Institute and American Chicken Council while there.

Dawn Starns has been honored to hold two political appointments from statewide elected officials. Starns, then 26 years old, was appointed to Governor Mike Foster's administration to serve as Special Assistant to Commissioner of Administration Mark C. Drennen. From 2001 to the end of the administration in 2004, Ms. Starns was responsible for legislative affairs, the successful passage of the Division's legislative

package and working in conjunction with the Governor's Legislative Team. Additionally, she was responsible for a number of components associated with the implementation of the Capitol Park Master Plan including the relocation of over 4000 state employees into the Capitol Park Campus. Prior to her Foster appointment, State Treasurer John N. Kennedy tapped Starns to serve as his legislative liaison after having served as his Deputy Campaign Manager in the 1999 election where they garnished 56 percent of the vote to unseat the incumbent.

Ms. Starns received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Louisiana State University. While at LSU, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority as well as interned as a Legislative Aide in the Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation Office at the State Capitol, where she got her start in Louisiana politics in 1998.

Ms. Starns, 40, is a native of and resides in Baton Rouge where she attends St. Aloysius Parish Church. She stays busy volunteering in the Baton Rouge community with a number of non-profit organizations. Ms. Starns was elected President of the Board of Directors for UP Elementary Charter School in 2014. Dawn was also chosen as a member of the Council for a Better Louisiana's Leadership Louisiana Class of 2012.

## Biography of State Representative Karen Gaudet St. Germain District 60



State Representative Karen G. St. Germain was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2003, and has served her constituents in District 60 for the past 12 years. Representative St. Germain serves as the Chairwoman for the House Transportation, Highways, and Public Works Committee. She is also a member of the House Executive Committee, the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the Joint Committee on Homeland Security.

In addition, Representative St. Germain serves as a member of the Acadiana Delegation, The Capital Regional Legislative Delegation, the Democratic Caucus, and the Louisiana Rural Caucus. She is also Chairwoman of the Atchafalaya Basin Subcommittee, as well as of the Louisiana Women's Caucus. She was also appointed to the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission in 2012 by Governor Jindal. Prior to her election into the Louisiana House of Representatives, she worked as a legislative assistant for former Representatives Charlie Melancon and Audrey McCain.

Throughout her term, Representative St. Germain has been named Legislator of the Year by the Child Care Association of Louisiana, Inc., the Louisiana State Troopers Association, the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Louisiana, and the Louisiana State Firemen's Association. She was also named Conservation Legislator of the Year by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and the National Wildlife Federation.

Representative St. Germain is married to Kenneth St. Germain, and together they have three sons, and reside in Pierre Part.

## Biography of State Representative Julie Stokes District 79



Julie Stokes was elected Louisiana State Representative for District 79 in March of 2013. She serves on the Ways & Means Committee, the Health & Welfare Committee, the Labor & Industrial Relations Committee, Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, and serves as Vice Chair of the Legislative Audit Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the Entertainment Industry Development Advisory Commission. She also serves on the State & Local Tax Task Force of the National Conference of State Legislators.

Representative Stokes was named as one of Citybusiness' Women of the Year in both 2003 and 2014. She also received legislative awards as follows: the Louisiana Industrial Development Economic Association Champion of Economic Development in 2013, the Louisiana Federation for Children's Education Choice Champion in 2013 and 2014, the Louisiana Family Forum's Liberty Award in 2014, as well as their Family Advocate award in 2013 and 2014, the National Federation of Small Business' Small Business Champion Award in 2013, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry's Legislative All-Star award in 2014, and the Louisiana Orthopedic Association's Legislator of the Year award in 2014.

Julie is a Certified Public Accountant, working in her family's business, Stokes & Associates. Throughout her career she has been actively involved with the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the University of New Orleans, the Louisiana Society of CPA's, and with various local economic development activities. She has been President of the Chateau Estates Civic Organization, the Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance, and the Jefferson Young Leaders. Prior to being elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives, Julie was a Commissioner of the Regional Transit Authority and a member of Kenner's Economic Development Committee.

Julie resides in Kenner with her husband Larry and their two children, Brandon and Taylor. She has lived in the area her entire life, being educated in the Jefferson Parish Public School System, and attending the University of New Orleans on full scholarship where she received her Bachelor's of Science in Accounting, Magna Cum Laude.

## Biography of Suzanne Haik Terrell



Suzanne Haik Terrell is the first and only Republican woman to be elected statewide in Louisiana. Mrs. Terrell has served in elective or appointed office at the local, state and national level, serving on the New Orleans City Council, as Louisiana's Commissioner of Elections and as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the US Department of Commerce.

In 2002 Mrs. Terrell was the Republican candidate for the United States Senate. Recognized as one of Louisiana's Preeminent Women Lawyers, Mrs. Terrell is a partner with the law firm of Hangartner, Rydberg and Terrell.

Still active in politics, Mrs. Terrell is the founder of Project GOPink, an organization dedicated to helping Republican women achieve elected and appointed office.

## Biography of State Representative Ledricka Thierry District 40



Ledricka Thierry, is a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives. She was elected five years ago as the first female legislator for St. Landry Parish. As a state legislator she serves as vice chair of the house insurance committee. She also serves on Judiciary, Appropriations and Legislative Audit Advisory Committee. In January 2012, Rep. Thierry was the only house legislator appointed by the Governor Bobby Jindal to the Louisiana Health Care Council Committee.

Before entering public service, Rep. Thierry spent a decade as a solo practitioner in her law firm concentrating in criminal defense and family law. Additionally, she has seven years of insurance experience, as a producer in both health and property and casualty. She is also the owner of Thierry Insurance Agency and is a licensed multi-line insurance producer. Ledricka regularly makes presentations to consumers on insurance issues and related topics; presents insurance coverage and claims programs to organizations as part of community outreach.

In the community, Ledricka is the founder of the St. Landry VITA site through the IRS and still continues to do free tax preparation for the residents of St. Landry Parish. This service has saved many of residents a total of over a million dollars in tax preparation fees. In 2009, 2010, and 2011 for her dedication and community service, she received a public service award from the US Department of Treasury.

Additionally, Ledricka Thierry continues to be an active member in the community providing assistance to community organizations, volunteering legal services, and mentoring youth in St. Landry Parish. In this upcoming fall year, she intends to be a candidate for the Senate District 24 Seat.

## Biography of East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court Doug Welborn



Doug Welborn is a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge and has devoted much of his adult life to serving the community. Doug has lived in Central since childhood, and in 1980, was elected to serve the first of three terms on the Baton Rouge City Council representing that area.

In 1991, Doug's council years came to an end when he successfully ran for Clerk of Court of East Baton Rouge Parish. Upon taking office, he immediately began implementing ideas for improvements to the office and he is proud of the progress that has been made in the office in every area.

In 1997, he served as President of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, having been elected by his colleagues throughout the state. In 2005 received an award for his assistance with Pro Bono work from the Louisiana Bar Association, and his office has been commended for their work in domestic violence assistance.

With the Clerk's office operating at premium efficiency and with a well-trained and talented staff, Doug has said that he is very pleased with the goals he has been able to meet as Clerk, but he has no plans to slow down. He will only be happy when continuing to work toward the future, as he is doing currently with his office's technological advancements.

## Biography of Stafford Wood



Stafford Wood works at the intersection of technology, graphic design and public relations. As co-founder and principal of Covalent Logic, an adaptive communications firm, her work recently won 17 awards from the American Advertising Federation including three Best In Show awards for Copywriting, Integrated Campaign and Interactive.

She has been personally chosen as Junior Achievement and Business Report's Young Businessperson of the Year. Stafford is a graduate of LSU 1995 in Political Science with a minor in Eastern European, Soviet and Russian Area Studies. She often jokes that, as a Political Science major, she doesn't run her business in search of profit - she works to win every race by a landslide.

Her constituents include publicly traded global companies like Hilton Hotels and Genesis Energy, as well as regional clients like Louisiana Healthcare Connections, Times Picayune, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana, and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

## Biography of Clay Young



Clay Young hails from quaint New Roads, Louisiana. He has been in the broadcasting industry for nearly two decades. While at Southern University, Young discovered a passion for broadcasting and public relations. Mr. Young has worked for six broadcasting companies including seven radio stations and two television stations. Young has hosted radio shows in both morning and afternoon drive. Clay has interviewed national figures like former Pres. Bill Clinton, Col. Oliver North, John O'Neil, and Dick Morris, just to name a few.

Young was also the first local host in the state of Louisiana to speak weekly with soldiers on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. Great motivational speakers like Stephen Covey, Zig Ziglar and T. Harv Eker have also spoken with Clay Young to promote regional events and their latest literature. Young's honors include awards from the Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network, the US Marines, US Central Command in Qatar, and the White House.

Young has also been featured in various newspaper, television and radio spotlights for his community work and youth advocacy. Young was a certified facilitator for The National Center for Fathering and helped found a fatherhood program in Baton Rouge. Young has also done voice work in marketing campaigns for well-known, nationwide companies like Napa Auto Parts and McDonald's. Mr. Young currently sits on the Louisiana Chapter for Warriors for Freedom Foundation. Warriors for Freedom Foundation (WFF) is a non-profit, tax exempt organization that provides support to our nation's heroes and their families in the areas of outdoor activities, scholarships and mental health awareness, specifically Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Combat Stress Reaction (CSR). Clay is the owner of Clay Young Enterprises.

CYE is marketing, graphic design and public relations. CYE's clients are commercial companies, public agencies, non-profit organizations and public individuals.