New Orleans Bar Association

Briefly Speaking

FEBRUARY 2017

Peter E. Sperling
2016 Arceneaux Professionalism Award Recipient
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New Orleans Bar Association

Bench Bar Conference
March 30-April 2, 2017
The Grand Hotel
Point Clear, AL

recharge. rethink. reconnect.

Special Masters
THOMAS KEASLER FOUTZ | HON. CAROLYN GILL-JEFFERSON (RET.)
Labor & Employment Law Committee
Developments and Significant Issues in Labor and Employment Law CLE

Start the year off with an overview of Significant Issues in Labor and Employment Law and a look ahead to what's on the horizon in 2017. Professor William R. Corbett's presentation promises to be engaging and informative.

Speaker: Professor Bill Corbett, LSU Law School

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2017
Time: Noon - 1 p.m.
Location: NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
CLE: 1 hour of CLE credit
Cost: NOBA Member Discount: $35; Non-Member: $55 (includes lunch)

To Register: Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 or email Morgan Ellis at mellis@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less an administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.

Products Liability Committee
February Committee Meeting

This committee meeting will be a meet and greet to discuss committee involvement, CLE plans, and request article submissions.

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017
Time: Noon - 1 p.m.
Location: NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
Cost: $14 (includes lunch)

To Register: Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 or email Morgan Ellis at mellis@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less an administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.
Wellness & Stress Management Committee
Heart Focus

The committee will welcome physicians to answer questions and conduct blood pressure screenings.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017

**Time:** Noon - 1 p.m.

**Location:** NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505

**Cost:** $14 (includes lunch)

**To Register:** Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 or email Morgan Ellis at mellis@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less an administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.

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Class Actions Committee
February Committee Meeting

This committee meeting will be a meet and greet to discuss committee involvement, CLE plans, and request article submissions.

**Date:** Thursday, February 9, 2017

**Time:** Noon - 1 p.m.

**Location:** NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505

**Cost:** $14 (includes lunch)

**To Register:** Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 or email Morgan Ellis at mellis@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less an administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.
Minorities in the Profession Committee

A Seat at the Table: Perspectives from In-House Counsel on Diversity in the Profession CLE

Speakers: Terrel Broussard, Hammerman & Gainer
Simone Boustead, Aetna, Inc.
Cory Vidal, Fidelity Bank

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017
Time: Noon - 1 p.m.
Location: NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
CLE: 1 hour of CLE credit
Cost: NOBA Member Discount: $35; Non-Member: $55 (includes lunch)
To Register: Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 or email Morgan Ellis at mellis@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less a $15 administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.

Real Property Committee

February Committee Meeting

Speaker: Professor John Lovett, Loyola University New Orleans
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017
Time: Noon - 1 p.m.
Location: NOBA Office, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 1505
Cost: $14 (includes lunch)
To Register: Contact NOBA at (504) 525-7453 or email Morgan Ellis at mellis@neworleansbar.org

Please note: Cancellations must be received in writing two days in advance in order to receive a refund less an administrative fee. No refunds for no shows.
Peter Sperling has spent over thirty years representing physicians, navigating sometimes emotional malpractice suits with clear eyes and compassion, and making it look effortless. He grew up in Birmingham, where his father was a general surgeon. He admired his father, who taught him to treat everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, with dignity and respect. He attended Vanderbilt University as an undergraduate and came to New Orleans for Tulane Law School.

He began his career in casualty litigation at Lemle and Kelleher where he came under the wing of Martin Hunley, the dean of medical malpractice in Louisiana. Mr. Hunley served as a mentor to Peter and taught him that an attorney can represent his client zealously, vigorously and effectively while still being a gentleman. Mr. Hunley was in his sixties at the time and cutting back a bit, so Peter got to travel and get in the courtroom probably a lot more than other young lawyers. This allowed him to cultivate the art of trial and appellate experience – experience which is now extensive and has earned him a place as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

Within his medical liability focus, Peter has represented physicians in virtually every specialty: hospitals, medical schools, nurses, long term care facilities, and all sorts of healthcare providers in and around New Orleans. He has handled some of the most significant cases brought against medical professionals in the area. Peter has made an art of staying cool under pressure. Malpractice cases can be extremely emotional and maintaining authenticity and respectfulness is important. Malpractice cases are often death cases and feelings could not run higher. That temperament lends itself to taking a very precise and sensitive view of the ethics in a case, as well as how one conducts oneself. Peter suggests that having a constant can be helpful. His constant is his respect for physicians like his father, and the collegiality of working with lawyers both within the firm and on the other side of the bar.

In presenting the Arceneaux Professionalism Award to Peter, Judge Robin Giarrusso said, “This year, we had many outstanding nominees. One stood heads above the rest. What was striking about the nomination of Peter Sperling is this: for the first time in memory, a defense lawyer was nominated by a plaintiff’s lawyer.” That lawyer, Robert David wrote, “Peter and I have litigated from opposite sides many times. Never have I asked from him a litigation courtesy that was not granted, lest he explained the solid reasoning behind his inability to provide it.”

Paul M. Sterbcow, a colleague, has this to say about Peter. “I’ve known Peter personally since law school and professionally since we began practicing law in 1986. He is what professionalism and ethics are about. No gamesmanship, no distorting or twisting of facts, no withholding information, and no manipulation to gain an unfair advantage. He’s an excellent lawyer who brings his A game to every case every day in the manner that’s demanded of us as members of the bar. Peter is a lawyer’s lawyer who exemplifies what is right and good about our profession.” John Hainkel, managing partner of Frilot, added “Peter is a fine lawyer, who brings a keen intellect and more than thirty years of trial experience to each case he
Peter Sperling speaks at NOBA’s Annual Dinner, where he received the award.

But it’s also important to him to give back as a mentor, teaching and nurturing the young lawyers within the Frilot firm, where he has been a founding member since 1995, as well as more broadly within the community. Teaching professionalism is the fine art of conveying not what the landscape is but what it ought to be, and Peter has been inspiring in mentoring others through articles and presentations. He also leads seminars for area hospital staffs and medical groups on topics such as proper charting and effective communication between healthcare practitioners and patients.

Even after 30 years in the law, he loves the variety of the work. Every case is new and unique. In addition to his practice, Peter and his wife Vicky are the parents of four children. Peter serves on a number of boards, including as chair of the Newman School Board for 2017 and as president of the Jewish Community Center. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), HeartGift of Louisiana, and the Southern Eye Bank Board. Peter’s other recognitions include being named a Louisiana “Super Lawyer,” one of the Top 50 Louisiana Lawyers, and the 2013 Lawyer of the Year for Medical Malpractice/Defendants.

 handles. Professionalism for him means treating all parties, their counsel and the court with dignity and respect, quite an accomplishment in the adversarial environment in which litigators practice. We are proud to have Peter Sperling on the Frilot team.”
# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016-17 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## PRACTICE AREA COMMITTEES

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*Chief Judge Diane R. Lundeen*
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016-17 COMMITTEE CHAIRS
BAR AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEES

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<td>Women in the Profession</td>
<td>Lisa M. Africk</td>
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THE WALL OF HONOR

The Veterans Protection Society
Gifts $5,000-$9,999

Judy Y. Barrasso and Brent B. Barriere
NOBA President NOBF Board of Directors

Jan M. Hayden
2016-17 NOBA Secretary
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Speaker Pro Tempore
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The Platoon Leaders
Gifts $100 to $499

Lisa M. Africk
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Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer, LLC
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In honor of Kevin R. Henderson
Paula St Martin, Administration Director
In honor of Lloyd P. St. Martin, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Daino, Program Director
Emily J. Anderson, Communications
In memory of John B. Anderson
Morgan L. Ellis, Members Services
Hayley M. Landry, Special Projects
In memory of Charles D. Bond, Sr.
Nathalia Brandsetter, LRS Coordinator
Rebecca Huskey, LRS Coordinator
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In memory of James G. Dunais
Kim M. Boyle
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2002-03 NOBA President
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John J. Broders
Camala E. Capodice
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In honor of Sidney H. Cates, III
Angelina Christina
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Rachael D. Johnson
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2016-17 NOBF Board of Directors
Wayne J. Lee
2011 Professionalism Award
2003 Presidents’ Award
Robert L. Manard
In honor of William F. Ryan
Recipient of 2 Purple Hearts
Wounded 3 times, he was a 1st
Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion,
3rd Marine Charlie Company,
Vietnam 1969
Judy Perry Martinez
1986-87 YLS Chair
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Thomas J. McGee II
Kim E. Moore
O’Bryon & Schnabel PLC
Guy D. Perrier
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Kelly Juneau Rookard
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Zachary L. Wool

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The Guardians for Service
Gifts $1,000-$4,999

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2014-15 NOBA President
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Stewart F. Peck
2015-16 NOBF Board of Directors
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In honor of
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WWII, Buffalo Division
Silver Star Recipient
The Hon. Sarah S. Vance and R. Patrick Vance
2016 Presidents’ Award
NOBA Board of Directors
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Gifts $500 to $999

The Veterans League
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M. Nan Alessandra
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Jessica W. Hayes
David M. Melancon
Steven W. Udlin
Ronald J. Wool
Courington, Kiefer & Sommers, LLC announces that Britney B. Ankersen has joined the firm in the New Orleans office as an Associate.

Shields|Mott L.L.P. announces that Jeffrey K. Prattini has been elected a Partner with the Firm; Mr. Prattini’s primary practice areas include public bid law disputes, construction and surety litigation, contract analysis and review, contract litigation, and products liability.

Shields|Mott L.L.P. welcomes Alana Riksheim as associate counsel; Alana’s primary practice areas include construction industry contracts and litigation, insurance defense, and property litigation.


Frank E. Lamothe, III at Lamothe Law Firm, LLC has been included in Super Lawyers 2017 for Personal Injury - Plaintiff.

Deutsch Kerrigan, LLP announced Bryce M. Addison has joined the firm as an Associate in its New Orleans office. As a civil litigator, Bryce Addison represents corporate and insurance clients in all areas of motion and trial practice against complex insurance coverage analysis and litigation and commercial litigation claims.

Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer is pleased to announce that the Members have elected Karl Zimmermann as the new managing partner. Karl started with the firm in 1982, prior to moving to New York. After five years, Karl returned home to New Orleans and to BHBM, where he has represented closely-held businesses and their owners, providing tax, business and strategic planning guidance for the past 22 years. Karl is excited about this new role and he looks forward to leading the firm into 2017 and beyond.

Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann L.L.C. is pleased to announce that William R. Bishop, Abigail C. Farris and W. Brett Mason have become Members of the firm.

Gordon, Arata, Mc-Collam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLC is pleased to announce that Margaret “Peggy” Welsh has been named a Partner of the firm. Peggy focuses her practice in the areas of corporate, real estate, oil and gas and securities transactions as well as handling regulatory issues before Federal agencies.

Chehardy Sherman Williams congratulates its nine attorneys who have been recognized as 2017 Louisiana Super Lawyers. David Sherman is recognized for his work in Business/Corporate Law; James Williams for General Litigation; Julian Murray, Jr., for White Collar Criminal Defense; Conrad Meyer, IV for Estate Planning & Probate Law; Steven Hayes for Estate Planning & Probate Law; P.J. Stakelum III for Business Litigation and Patrick K. Reso, who is the firm’s newest partner, for his work in Estate Planning & Probate Law. Two attorneys were recognized as 2017 Rising Stars, including Inemesit U. O’Boyle for Plaintiff Litigation and Preston L. Hayes for General Litigation.

The Chehardy Sherman Williams law firm is pleased to announce the opening of its new office in Hammond, Louisiana. The new branch will be located at 111 N. Oak Street Suite 200. It will be headed by attorney Patrick K. Reso, Board Certified Tax Law Specialist and Estate Planning and Administration Specialist, who is also a partner with Chehardy Sherman Williams. Mr. Reso will be joined by attorneys Jennifer A. Lee, handling business and corporate law as well as estate planning and succession; Elsbet C. Smith, who will handle business and corporate law, estate planning and real estate; and Frank J. DiVittorio, who practices in the areas of commercial transactions and litigation, debt collection, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, family law, succession litigation, estate planning, and real estate.

Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, L.L.C. is pleased to announce that seventeen attorneys have been selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers. The attorneys selected for Louisiana Super Lawyers include Judy Barrasso, Celeste Coco-Ewing, George C. Freeman, III, Catherine Fornias Giarrusso, Craig Isenberg, John W. Joyce, Stephen H. Kupperman, Stephen L. Miles, H. Minor Pipes III, Andrea Mahady Price, Thomas A. Roberts, Richard E. Sarver, and Steven W. Usdin. The attorneys selected for Louisiana Rising Stars include Michael A. Balascio, Jamie L. Berger, David N. Luder, and Erica A. Therio.
Got Talent? We Want To See It!

NOBA’s Got Talent at the 2017 Bench Bar Conference

The YLS says every lawyer and judge has talent and they’re searching for next year’s contestants. The 2017 YLS Bench Bar Conference Committee is hosting the NOBA’s Got Talent competition on Friday, March 31, 2017 at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, AL. Fun with karaoke singing, lip-synching, dancing, and other acts encouraged. Karaoke with a celebrity legal community DJ and enthusiastic audience are provided.

NOBA’s Got Talent is an opportunity for NOBA’s performers to showcase their special talents at the 2017 Bench Bar Conference in hopes of being able to take the stage in front of our esteemed panel of judges, take home the winning trophy, and of course bragging rights!

To answer the YLS casting call, please send an email to Helena Henderson at hhenderson@neworleansbar.org