Hugh P. Lambert, Paul M. Sterbcow, and Jason P. Waguespack at the 2017 Distinguished Maritime Lawyer Award Luncheon
If you are interested, please contact Amy Gonzales at agonzales@neworleansbar.org for advertising information and rates for 2018.

Contact Liz Daino at (504) 525-7453 or ldaino@neworleansbar.org
During the month of January, I had the opportunity to meet with several leaders of the New Orleans Bar Association. The first meeting was with the chairpersons of our various committees during our Committee Orientation. Many lawyers with depth of experiences in all areas, from appellate to bankruptcy, from oil and gas to products liability, and domestic violence came together to discuss working towards the continuation of the premium CLE and other programming that has become synonymous with the New Orleans Bar Association. The second meeting was with our Young Lawyers Section. I was inspired, as I always am, by the energy the Young Lawyers bring to our organization. Both meetings left me reflective and appreciative of all of the good that we, as lawyers and members of this association, give to our bar and our community at-large. It also left me confident that our bar will be stronger because of the wealth of experience these leaders bring to the table.

This issue of *Briefly Speaking* will feature two of our best. The first is Paul Sterbcow, recipient of the NOBA Distinguished Maritime Lawyer Award. This award is given annually to a distinguished member of the Maritime and International Law Committee after being nominated for the award by his or her peers. This honor is well-deserved because of Paul’s dedicated commitment to his craft and his preeminent professionalism. The other feature is our Veteran’s Spotlight on Darryl Phillips, Assistant General Counsel for Entergy Services, Inc. The New Orleans Bar Foundation’s Veterans Justice Fellowship was established under Darryl’s Presidency of the New Orleans Bar Foundation in 2016. Since that time, the Fellowship has raised enough funds to support the work of our Fellow who has served numerous veterans on-site at the VA hospital. Our hope is that these stories will inspire you to continue to support our Fellow and the good work being provided to those veterans in need at the VA hospital.

This month, as a part of our Tricentennial Celebration, NOBA will also have the honor of hosting some of our best! Our Lunch with Legends, which is selling out quickly, will feature A.P. Tureaud, Jr., Phoebe Ferguson, and Keith Plessy. History is important to provide the context of all of the good work we are doing at this moment. The Plessy decision was issued in 1896. In that moment, those involved may not have realized that their attempts would result in efforts to achieve even greater work now, some 125 years later. They may also have not realized the impact such a decision might have on a young A.P. Tureaud, Sr. What that reveals to me is that as long as we stay focused on the important work that we are assigned to do today, we cannot imagine the domino effect of our good work and what our efforts might produce tomorrow, three years from now, or even 125 years from now!

Dana
NEW ORLEANS TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for the New Orleans Bar Association's celebration of the 300-year history of New Orleans. Throughout the upcoming year, NOBA will host a variety of CLE programs and special events centered around our city's rich and unique history.

FEBRUARY 2018

Lunch with Legends, featuring Phoebe Ferguson, Keith Plessy & A.P. Tureaud, Jr.

It is not often that we get a chance to be a part of a conversation with those who we know, in the moment, are a part of history. On February 21, 2018, the New Orleans Bar Association invites you to be a part of a discussion of New Orleans Civil Rights history.

Phoebe Ferguson and Keith Plessy will discuss how they transcended from Plessy v. Ferguson to Plessy and Ferguson and the important work of the Plessy Ferguson Foundation. A.P. Tureaud, Jr., born three short years after the decision of Plessy v. Ferguson, will discuss the work of his father as the attorney for the New Orleans chapter of the NAACP during the Civil Rights Movement.

With the assistance of Thurgood Marshall and others from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, A.P. Tureaud, Sr., filed the lawsuit that successfully ended segregation in New Orleans. Mr. Tureaud will also discuss his own story as the first person of color to attend LSU Undergraduate in 1953.

Speakers: Phoebe Ferguson, Keith Plessy, and A.P. Tureaud, Jr.

Moderator: Kim M. Boyle, Phelps Dunbar LLP

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 | 12 noon

Cost: NOBA Member Discount $60; Non-Member $70

Location: The Sheraton Hotel | 500 Canal St., New Orleans, LA, 70130

MARCH 2018

The Nation’s Most Incarcerated State Changes Tide and Its Impact on the City of New Orleans in the 300th Year of its Founding

Speakers:
Flozell Daniels, Jr., President & CEO of Foundation for Louisiana
Kenneth A. Polite, Jr., Entergy (Former U.S. Attorney)
Judy Perry Martinez, Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 | 12 noon

Cost: $35, light lunch included

Location: USDC, EDLA | 500 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130
2017 Distinguished Maritime Lawyer Award

On Thursday, October 26, 2017, Paul M. Sterbcow received the New Orleans Bar Association’s Distinguished Maritime Lawyer Award. NOBA’s 2016-17 president, Christopher K. Ralston, presented Paul with the award at a celebratory luncheon held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. Testimonial speakers included the Honorable Carl J. Barbier, Jeff R. Tillery, and David A. Abramson.

Paul was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on September 8, 1960. He attended Newman School where he was a four-year letterman and named all district in football and baseball. He attended Tulane University, graduating with a B.S. in Political Science in 1982. Following his graduation, Paul entered Tulane Law School. He intended to earn his law degree and begin his law career as a prosecutor in the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s office, where he was a law clerk throughout school. His clerkship included working for then Assistant District Attorneys Jim Letten and Leon Cannizzaro.

However, two events changed his plans. First, he decided to take Admiralty I, the entry level Admiralty law class taught by Professor Robert Force. This course, and Professor Force’s influence, caused him to fall in love with the maritime law.

Second, due to the sudden death of Paul’s father in February 1986, Paul’s last semester of law school, he took on the responsibility of caring for and supporting his mother. He could no longer afford to work for an assistant district attorney’s salary. His love of the maritime law and this life changing event combined to shape his career path.

Following graduation, Paul obtained an associate job with the New Orleans maritime defense firm of Abbott, Webb, Best & Meeks. He quickly rose within the associate ranks to become a second chair trial lawyer in federal court within six months of obtaining his law license. He was asked by the firm’s largest client, Penrod Drilling Company, to serve as a contract assistant to the general counsel. This experience exposed Paul to many complex legal and procedural issues in maritime law and honed his trial skills in federal court.

Paul left the Abbott Webb firm in 1989 to start his own practice, Frasier & Sterbcow. For the next five years, Paul handled a variety of civil cases and supervised the business side of a law practice. During this period, Paul realized that he found the most professional satisfaction from representing plaintiffs whose lives were profoundly impacted by injury or the death of a loved one. He also learned how to run a business, including making payroll and keeping the doors open in lean times. There were many occasions when he did not take a draw or paycheck to ensure that his employees never missed a pay day.

The next watershed moment in Paul’s career occurred when he referred a large maritime personal injury case to Harvey Lewis. The case was too costly for Paul to handle, so he turned to the person he felt was one of the best maritime trial lawyers in the country. This referral led to a professional relationship which ultimately resulted in Paul closing his firm and joining the law firm of Lewis & Kullman on May 1, 1994.
Twenty-three years later, Paul is the managing partner of Lewis, Kullman, Sterbcow & Abramson, LLC. He acknowledges and credits with deep appreciation the mentoring he received from Harvey Lewis and Larry Kullman, two of the finest lawyers and people Paul has ever known. Harvey and Larry not only honed Paul’s skills as a lawyer; they also taught him the importance of ethics, professionalism, and leadership in professional and personal endeavors. In addition to his courtroom accomplishments, Paul has served as a board member of the Metropolitan Commission and the Voters Information League. He is past president of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation in Metairie, Louisiana. He has also been elected chair of the Admiralty Law Section of the American Association for Justice, twice served as chair of the Maritime Law Section of the Louisiana Association for Justice, a board member and treasurer of the New Orleans Bar Association, board member of the Federal Bar Association of New Orleans and an Executive Committee member, and current President-Elect of the Louisiana Association for Justice.

Additionally, Harvey and Larry’s influence, combined with Paul’s affinity for the maritime law, resulted in Paul becoming a prolific CLE speaker. He has authored 45 papers on various topics involving maritime law and civil trial practice. One of his papers, “Use of Expert Witnesses in Maritime Proceedings,” was published by the Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce. Paul enjoys the intellectual stimulation of researching and writing papers and helping to teach his plaintiff and defense attorney colleagues to become better lawyers. He has spoken at professional seminars in Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Florida, Colorado, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.

Paul estimates that he has tried well over 100 cases in his career. While all have been important, and many of his cases have resulted in changes in the substantive maritime law, the case of which he is most proud is Jones v. Bourbon Night – Life, LLC, et al. Paul was privileged to represent Mae and Levon Jones, the parents of Levon Jones, Jr., who was strangled to death on January 1, 2005, by three bouncers in front of a bar on Bourbon Street. It was an emotionally charged case from the beginning, and a very difficult case to prove liability and applicable insurance coverage. Four years of hard-fought litigation ultimately resulted in a highly favorable confidential settlement for the Jones family, who lost their college student athlete son for no reason. As Paul said, “I will never forget Mrs. Jones carrying her bible to every meeting, deposition, and courtroom appearance, nor will I forget the tears and appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones when the case was resolved. That is what it’s all about.”

While the Jones case is one that is special to Paul, his ultimate career accomplishment to date is as a member of the Plaintiffs Steering Committee in MDL-2179, the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Paul quickly rose within the PSC to become co-lead trial lawyer with his colleague and good friend, Robert T. Cunningham, of Mobile, Alabama. Together they lead a team of distinguished and highly accomplished trial lawyers in preparing and trying the largest civil case in the history of American jurisprudence. Their team took or defended over 300 depositions in slightly over 12 months and had the case prepared for trial two years after the April 20, 2010, explosion and oil spill. The case was tried over two months with Paul handling a number of the key defendant witnesses. This effort in terms of organization and execution is now widely regarded as a model for preparation and trial of mass disaster cases. Paul is extremely proud of the work that he, the trial team, and the Plaintiffs Steering Committee did on behalf of over 200,000 individual and business claimants.

Paul is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He received the 2011 President’s Award from the Louisiana Association of Justice. He is privileged to practice law today with his partner, David Abramson, an outstanding lawyer, partner and close personal friend. Paul has been married to his wife Laurie for 30 years, and they are extremely proud of their three children, Ashley, Eli, and Leah.
You are cordially invited to be a law firm patron for NOBA’s **2018 Bench Bar Conference**, which will be held at Marriott’s Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama. The conference is co-sponsored with judges of local courts and attended by key decision makers in the New Orleans legal community.

Your firm’s contribution underwrites the costs of the hotel rooms for the local area judges to attend the conference. The hallmark of the Bench Bar Conference is the Meet the Judges program, which typically allows lawyers to meet 35-40 judges in small groups to learn what’s expected in their courtrooms.

As a patron, your firm’s name will be recognized on the Bar’s website, printed in the conference materials, and published in our monthly newsletter, Briefly Speaking.

- **Gold Gavel Patron** | $1,100
  
  *Includes two (2) Young Lawyers (40 years old and under) Bench Bar CLE Registration for 9 hours of CLE, all breakfasts & snacks, and the Saturday luncheon (not transferable to lawyers over 40).*

  Attendee #1 _______________________________
  Attendee #2 _______________________________

- **Silver Gavel Patron** | $900
  
  *Includes one (1) Young Lawyer (40 years old and under) Bench Bar CLE Registration 9 hours of CLE, all breakfasts & snacks, and the Saturday luncheon (not transferable to lawyers over 40).*

  Attendee #1 _______________________________

- **Bronze Gavel Patron** | $700
  
  *Conference fees, including CLE Registration and other events, are not included in this patron fee.*

  Firm Name ________________________________
  Contact Name ______________________________
  Phone Number ______________________________
  Contact Email ______________________________

**RESERVATIONS AT MARRIOTT’S GRAND HOTEL**

Instructions for hotel reservations will be forwarded at a later date.
Darryl M. Phillips currently serves as Assistant General Counsel for Entergy Services, Inc. He received his Bachelor of Arts (1984) and Juris Doctorate (1989) from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana. He is admitted to practice law in the states of Louisiana and Texas. Darryl came to Entergy from The Cochran Firm - Louisiana, where he was the owner and managing partner. He has extensive litigation experience in the casualty and commercial areas. He has represented the City of New Orleans, and served as one of its Chiefs of Litigation.

Darryl has considerable trial experience as a first chair trial lawyer representing both plaintiffs and defendants in casualty and commercial matters in federal and state courts in Louisiana and Texas. He has handled cases in various jurisdictions, including Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi. He has an AV rating with Martindale Hubbell, and was a legal reporter for the Judge Advocate General’s Office (the JAG), United States Marine Corps, prior to going to law school. He is also a former President of the New Orleans Bar Foundation (2015-16) and currently serves as Vice-President of the New Orleans Bar Association.

DAVIS
Tell us about your military service.

PHILLIPS
I served four years active and two years inactive enlistment in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, where I applied for and was assigned the job of Legal Reporter in the Judge Advocate General’s Office. The JAG at that time was part of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing (4th MAW) located here in New Orleans and the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse. The unit consisted of officers and enlisted personnel who provided legal support to the legal personnel and those issues governed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Simply put, we were the law office of the military and handled administrative, civil, and criminal matters.

My personal interest in military service started at a young age. I enlisted at age 17, a few months before I graduated from high school. Because I was still a minor, I had to convince my parents to sign the enlistment paperwork. Needless to say, my parents were not exactly happy about my decision, so obtaining their signatures required some persuasion. At the time, I had already accepted a scholarship to Loyola and was scheduled to start in August. Understandably, my parents did not understand why I wanted to join the military when I was already college bound. My explanation of wanting to obtain real-world work experience while I attended college provided my parents with the rational basis for my decision. In actuality, I also didn't want to spend another New Orleans summer working on the Riverfront or for my uncle's construction company... but that's another story. My parents eventually came around and executed the necessary paperwork. Shortly thereafter, one day after high school graduation, I left for Basic Training (boot camp).

Marine Corps basic training had me quickly second guessing my decision. Upon enlistment, I was sent off to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) at Camp Pendleton, in San Diego, California. My best friend from the neighborhood joined me. We enlisted and went through basic training together under what was referred to as the “buddy program”, which just meant that we would be assigned to the same platoon during boot camp.
Within two days of arrival, we were asking, ‘What have we gotten ourselves into?’ Even though I had been an athlete all my life, at 17 years old, Marine Corps basic training was the most physically and mentally difficult thing I had ever done. While I hated just about every other day of Basic Training, I would not trade the experience and the ‘gut check’ it provided. There is something mind-altering about being pushed to what you believe are your limits, then being pushed far beyond what you ever thought possible. That experience has probably been the most influencing and enduring.

During my four years of college, I would spend one weekend a month serving as a Legal Reporter in the local JAG office at the Naval Port of Embarkation. Every summer, I was activated and served two weeks at a duty station, working alongside my active duty counterparts. Many of the JAG lawyers in the unit were also local attorneys who acted as early mentors. The opportunity to work in a highly disciplined environment at such an early age proved to be an invaluable asset as I matured and encountered life’s obstacles.

**DAVIS**

What inspired you to join the military?

**PHILLIPS**

The military men and women, specifically the Marines to whom I had been exposed, were probably my greatest inspiration. These Marines carried themselves with a sense of honor, pride, self-confidence, and discipline. Their strong will, principles, and sense of character were characteristics I admired and wanted to emulate.

I was 17 when I enlisted. At that time, I thought about joining the Foreign Services and thought the military would be a good start along that path. I wanted the experience of working and living abroad. I guess it was my Plan B, in case I did not like the actual practice of law.

**DAVIS**

How has your experience in the military assisted you in the practice of law?

**PHILLIPS**

The Marine Corps is great at exposing your weaknesses and identifying what you perceive to be your limits, then pushing you far past them. As a result, you develop a sense of confidence in the face of adversity. Personally, the Marine Corps help set my default button on ‘Can Do’.

**DAVIS**

What can we as lawyers do to help Veterans?

**PHILLIPS**

Veterans’ issues are complex and require lawyers who can navigate the veterans’ benefits systems. The VA speaks a language all its own, and someone well-versed in its culture and language is best suited to handle veterans’ issues. As lawyers, we get more bang for our buck by supporting the Veterans Fellowship, sponsored by the NOBA, NOBF, and SLLS. The Veterans Fellowship sponsors a lawyer that has an on-site office at the new VA Hospital in downtown New Orleans and provides legal support to the veteran population. As lawyers, supporting the Veterans Fellowship is the best way to directly help our local Veterans.

For more information on ways to support our Veterans Justice Fellowship, please visit www.neworleansbar.org/foundation.

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**About the Author**

Tiffany Delery Davis is a shareholder at Liskow & Lewis where she practices in the areas of maritime and energy law. Tiffany served as a Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 1996 through 2004.
Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard announces the selection of 18 attorneys to the 2018 Louisiana Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists.

Attorneys recognized as Super Lawyers include:

- Ashley Belleau
  Business Litigation

- Christopher Caplinger
  Bankruptcy: Business

- Stanley Cohn
  Transportation/Maritime

- Celeste Elliott
  Insurance Coverage

- Joseph Guichet
  Insurance Coverage

- Rose McCabe LeBreton
  Real Estate: Business

- Stewart Peck
  Bankruptcy: Business

- Seth Schmeckle
  Insurance Coverage

- David Sharpe
  Transportation/Maritime

- Rodger Wheaton
  Transportation/Maritime

- Kristopher Wilson
  Insurance Coverage

Attorneys recognized as Rising Stars include:

- Joseph Briggett
  Business Litigation

- Dan Centner
  Civil Litigation: Defense

- Emmitt DuBose, III
  Transportation/Maritime

- Benjamin Kadden
  Bankruptcy: Business

- Shaundra Schudmak
  Insurance Coverage

- Heather Sharp
  Insurance Coverage

- Miles Thomas
  Transportation/Maritime

Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & Warshauer, L.L.C. was recently selected by Chambers USA as a “Band 1” (Top Tier) law firm in Plaintiff Litigation, and recognized as “one of the most solid plaintiff firms in the state.” There were only two firms in the State of Louisiana to receive such a “Band 1” designation.

Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer is pleased to announce that Valerie E. Fontenot has joined the firm as a litigation attorney.


Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P. is pleased to announce that the following attorneys from the New Orleans office have been named to the 2018 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers, and one attorney has been named a Rising Star.

Super Lawyers—New Orleans
- Thomas M. Benjamin
  Business Litigation

- Alan H. Goodman
  Business Litigation

- Eve B. Masinter
  Employment & Labor

- Richard G. Passler
  Business Litigation

Rising Stars—New Orleans
- Rachael Jeanfreau
  Employment & Labor

Steeg Law Firm, LLC has been ranked in the 2018 edition of U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers® as a Metropolitan Tier 1 Law Firm in New Orleans for Real Estate Law, Litigation – Real Estate, and Commercial Transactions/UCC Law. Steeg Law was also ranked a Metropolitan Tier 2 Law Firm in New Orleans for Banking and Finance Law, Commercial Litigation, and Litigation – Bankruptcy.
King, Krebs & Jurgens congratulates our Members selected for the 2018 Louisiana Super Lawyers list:

• Robert Burvant  
  Business Litigation

• J. Grant Coleman  
  Estate & Probate

• George “Jack” Jurgens, III  
  Energy & Resources

• Henry King  
  Business Litigation

• Patricia Krebs  
  Business Litigation

• Timothy Madden  
  Business/Corporate

• Douglas Matthews  
  Transportation/Maritime

• David Strauss  
  Insurance Coverage

Patricia Krebs was also noted by Louisiana Super Lawyers as being among the top 50 lawyers in New Orleans and top 25 women on their 2018 list.

Perrier & Lacoste is pleased to announce Nicholas J. Chauvin and Kristie L. Mouney have become Members of the firm.

Perrier & Lacoste is pleased to announce Patrick R. Schmidt has joined the firm as an Associate.

The Pro Bono Project seeks volunteers for the Help Desk at Orleans Civil District Court. Morning shifts of just two to three hours are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Volunteers will explain the filing process and provide court forms to self-represented litigants who otherwise may not qualify for legal aid or be able to afford private counsel. Volunteers do not give legal advice, but assist visitors with general information.

If you are interested, please email Kathleen Legendre at volunteer@probono-no.org.
The Patterson Resolution Group offers dispute resolution services in complex cases to businesses and individuals across Louisiana and the Gulf South. Group members include six former presidents of the Louisiana State Bar Association and a retired district court judge. The members have substantive experience in disputes in areas such as:

- Corporate and Business
- Commercial Real Estate
- Oil and Gas
- Maritime
- Construction
- Products Liability
- Banking
- Employment
- Insurance
- Healthcare
- Professional Liability
- Governmental

Contact Mike Patterson at 866-367-8620. Or visit the group’s website at www.pattersonresolution.com for more information and the article, “Getting Your Client and Yourself Ready for Mediation.”