

Ones to Watch: Law

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ONES TO WATCH | Law



Belleau



Lambert



Surprenant



Cerone



DeMarcay



Bishop

Ashley L. Belleau

shareholder

Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard

A veteran and award-winning attorney, Ashley Belleau's primary areas of practice include bankruptcy, corporate and commercial law, estate planning, professional liability defense and litigation. Located in the firm's New Orleans headquarters, Belleau works with business owners through the corporate lifecycle of launch, growth, development and dissolution when necessary. She also consults with individuals on how to protect their personal assets through estate and trust vehicles, and she mediates and arbitrates business disputes.

For more than a decade, Belleau has served as a member of the Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, National Association of Securities Dealers Regulation, Inc. and New York Stock Exchange. She also served as a mediator for the Louisiana Department of Insurance Hurricane Mediation Program, administered by the American Arbitration Association, and mediated more than 350 hurricane wind damage disputes between homeowners and insurance companies.

Belleau has authored numerous legal papers and given lectures and presentations on topics within her areas of practice to a multitude of organizations over the course of her career. Among her numerous honors, she has been selected for inclusion in the Louisiana Super Lawyers list 10 times, a distinction no more than 5 percent of the state's attorneys receive each year, as well as in the New Orleans CityBusiness' 2016 Leadership in Law and 2012 Women of the Year class. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, serving as its delegate to the American Bar Association, and she was included in the inaugural edition of the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers, an honor reserved for less than 5 percent of AV-rated women lawyers. She received her juris doctorate from Tulane University School of Law.

Kent Lambert

shareholder and chairman, business litigation practice group

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC

Since 2014, Kent Lambert has been chair of Baker Donelson's business litigation practice group, which encompasses some 100 attorneys across the firm's 24 offices in 10 states and Washington, D.C. His practice emphasizes civil trials and litigation, complemented by an active civil appellate practice. A shareholder in the firm's New Orleans office, Lambert has handled a wide variety of commercial disputes, including intentional and non-intentional business torts, contract actions, fiduciary litigation, franchise matters, property and leasehold disputes and civil RICO actions on

behalf of domestic and international concerns in industry sectors that encompass chemical and petrochemical concerns, aggregates, transportation, manufacturing, telecommunications, health care, hospitality, construction, technology, insurance and real estate interests, among others.

Throughout his career, Lambert has worked with financial institutions, their officers and directors and bank-affiliated investment professionals across a broad spectrum of matters that encompass fraud actions, breach of fiduciary duty cases, lender liability claims, mortgage-fraud matters, bank deposit and collection claims and consumer class action defense, as well as arbitrations and regulatory proceedings. The former chair of Baker Donelson's e-Discovery and information management group, he also has extensive experience with e-discovery management and technologies, data security and privacy matters and information management and preservation issues.

Lambert is active in the American Bar Association, recently completing a three-year term as an officer of the Council of the ABA's section of litigation. Currently a member of the ABA litigation section's book publishing board, he has formerly chaired both the litigation section's trial evidence committee and the section's pretrial practice and discovery committee, served as a vice-chair for the section's business torts committee and is a former associate editor of the ABA's Litigation News publication. Lambert is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and previously served as a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.

Lambert has been recognized by Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business as a leading lawyer in Louisiana in the area of litigation since 2010 and by The Best Lawyers in America in the area of commercial litigation since 2013. He is listed among the top 50 attorneys in New Orleans in the 2017 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers. He received his juris doctorate from Tulane Law School.

Diana Cole Surprenant

partner

Adams and Reese LLP

Diana Cole Surprenant joined Adams and Reese in 2011 and earlier this year was named a partner with the firm. She has developed a strong practice as a member of the firm's labor and employment, appellate and pharmaceutical and medical device teams. In her labor and employment practice, Surprenant represents employers in arbitration proceedings, in administrative proceedings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights, and in the state and federal courts. She also assists clients in defending against retaliation claims; collective action claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act; and employment discrimination claims arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. She also presents seminars to employers addressing employment issues in the workplace.

Surprenant also represents health care providers in medical review panel hearings and in the state and federal courts where she has served as second chair at trial. Her appellate work includes active post-trial motion practice and the drafting of appellate briefs in the area of toxic tort litigation. She also has experience in applying for emergency supervisory writ applications before the Louisiana appellate courts. She continually draws on her appellate experience to preserve objections at the trial level.

Surprenant clerked for Judge Jay Zainey in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. She is a member of the Young Friends of St. Andrew's Village, Support for Lawyers/Legal Personnel-All Concern Encouraged; the Federal, Louisiana and American Bar Associations; Homeless Experience Legal Protection and the Young Leadership Council. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Colby College and her juris doctorate from the Catholic University of America, Columbia School of Law.

Rudy Cerone

member and co-chair of financial restructuring, bankruptcy & creditors' rights team

McGlinchey Stafford PLLC

Rudy Cerone is a 38-year veteran of the legal profession whose practice includes business and complex consumer bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

Cerone was recently named as one of the 15 members of the American Bankruptcy Institute's newly formed commission on consumer bankruptcy, which was created to examine the consumer bankruptcy system and recommend improvements that can be added within its existing structure. He joined the commission for its first public field hearing at the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys' annual meeting.

Cerone is co-chair of the ABI Caribbean Insolvency Symposium and previously served in leadership roles within ABI, including as a member of its board of directors from 2006–2015 and as secretary and executive committee member from 2010–2015. He is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is certified as a specialist in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and by the Louisiana State Bar Association Board of Legal Specialization. He has received recognition from peers and clients for excellence in bankruptcy law in publications such as Chambers USA and The Best Lawyers in America. He received his juris doctorate from Boston College Law School and his bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of California at San Diego.

Larry DeMarcay III

partner

Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer LLC

Larry DeMarcay joined Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer in 2017 after working with another law firm for over 19 years. His practice is predominantly litigation based, including maritime, commercial and personal injury matters. He is admitted to practice law in Louisiana, Texas and Florida. Prior to attending law school, DeMarcay served on the Washington, D.C.-based legislative staff of U.S. Rep. Jimmy Hayes.

DeMarcay is passionate about improving education and public safety in the community and serves on multiple boards, including his role as one of the founders of the Hermes Beyond the Parade Foundation, The New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation and as secretary of the board of trustees for The Academy of the Sacred Heart. He is also a former board member of the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, where he was selected to participate in the Leadership Jefferson program. DeMarcay received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Florida, master of business administration from The George Washington University and his law degree from Loyola University. He is also a graduate of the Loyola Institute of Politics.

William Bishop

member

Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann LLC

William Bishop represents clients in a wide range of matters, including mergers and acquisitions, capital market transactions, restructurings and joint ventures. He also represents startups and emerging companies, providing guidance and expertise on angel investing, venture capital and private equity transactions and general corporate matters, working with clients through every stage of a company's life cycle.

Bishop currently serves as outside general counsel to several regional emerging companies and is on the board of directors for Operation Spark. He is also chair of the New Orleans region for Princeton Alumni Schools committee, served as a member of the Princeton University National Schools committee from 2012-2014 and is a member of the American and Louisiana State Bar Associations.

Bishop has been recognized as a Rising Star by Louisiana Super Lawyers. He received his juris doctorate from Tulane Law School and his bachelor of arts degree from Princeton University.

WHO'S WATCHING YOU?

To submit your name or a colleague's for "Ones to Watch," contact Valerie Huntley at vhuntley@nopg.com or 293-9273.

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