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News from the Southern University Law Center

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For immediate release
August 4, 2010

**Four Alumni To Be Recognized For Leadership
During 2010 National Bar Association Convention Breakfast**

Baton Rouge, LA—Three alumni judges and a Baton Rouge attorney will be honored for leadership, service to the legal community, and dedication to the Southern University Law Center during the 85th National Bar Association (NBA) Annual Convention and Exhibits, August 9-13, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Shreveport, Louisiana, natives Judge Leon L. Emanuel, III, a 1977 SULC graduate, and Judge Ramona L. Emanuel, a 1986 SULC graduate, both of the First Judicial District Court; Judge Benedict “Ben” Willard, a 1992 SULC graduate, of the Orleans Criminal District Court, and attorney Monique M. Edwards, a 1986 SULC graduate, of Baton Rouge will be presented at the 2010 Alumni Leadership Awards, during the annual SULC Alumni Breakfast at 7 a.m. Wednesday, August 11, in Mardi Gras A & B, Third Floor, the Marriott New Orleans Hotel.

Judge Leon Emanuel has more than 30 years of legal experience with most of his time spent in public service and government. Emanuel was first appointed judge in Shreveport City Court in 1989. Elected state district court judge in 1992, Judge Emanuel was re-elected without opposition in 1996, 2002, and 2008, and has presided over

criminal and civil cases.

Judge Ramona Emanuel was elected as Caddo Parish judge in Criminal Section 4, Division B in the First Judicial District Court in November 1995, becoming the first female elected to that court. Judge Emanuel now serves as deputy chief judge.

Before serving in her present capacity, she was an administrative law judge for the State of Louisiana, Department of Workers' Compensation. Emanuel began her legal career as an attorney in a private law firm and worked as an attorney for Child Support Enforcement.

Judge Benedict "Ben" Willard was elected to the Criminal District Court bench of New Orleans in 2002 and re-elected in 2008 without opposition. In addition to his normal docket, Willard is a certified drug court judge.

Willard began his legal career as a staff attorney with the Secretary of State's office. From 1994-1998, Judge Willard was employed as a law clerk/staff attorney for Justice Bernette Johnson with the Louisiana Supreme Court. From 1999-2001, he worked as an assistant district attorney for Orleans Parish. After leaving the D.A.'s office, he worked as an administrator at Juvenile Court until his election to the bench. He also taught as an adjunct faculty member at Southern University in New Orleans.

Monique Marie Edwards currently serves as general counsel/privacy officer for the Family First Medical Clinic, family practice located in Plaquemine, Louisiana. Prior to that, Edwards was assistant secretary for the Office of Mineral Resources of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and secretary of the State Mineral and Energy Board. As DNR assistant secretary, Edwards managed a staff of 72 employees consisting of auditors, geologists, engineers, and GIS professionals. The Office of Mineral

Resources has the statutory authority to lease, manage and audit oil and gas exploration and production activities on state owned lands and water bottoms.

Edwards also served as executive counsel to the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, where she advised on policy, administration and operational functions. She developed and implemented special projects for DNR and served as its legislative liaison to the Louisiana State Legislature.

For more information about the alumni breakfast, contact Cynthia N. Reed, director of CLE and alumni affairs, (225) 771- 2155, Creed@sulc.edu.

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