

## Managing Partner Skip Philips Honored as 2018 LSU Law “Distinguished Achievement Honoree”

The LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center honored Taylor Porter Managing Partner **Skip Philips** among the 2018 Distinguished Achievement Honorees, recognizing graduates for professional achievement, service to LSU Law, and the community. The event was held March 2 in New Orleans.

“Not only was my legal education extraordinary and prepared me so well

for this wonderful career, but having been invited to stay affiliated with the law school has been truly remarkable,” Philips said.

Philips received further recognition in January 2018 when he was honored with a Baton Rouge Bar Association President's Award, recognizing legal professionals who are furthering the goals and mission of the BRBA.



*Taylor Porter Managing Partner Skip Philips pictured with LSU Law Center Dean Tom Galligan.*

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### *Furr Reflects on Mary Bird Chair Tenure*

As Taylor Porter Partner **Brett Furr** concluded his two-year term as Board Chair at Mary Bird Perkins in 2017, Cancer Center's CEO Todd Stevens remarked that Furr's leadership and contributions of time and talent have helped the organization experience some of its most successful years to date.

“The organization successfully brought the groundbreaking Gamma Knife Icon technology to the Gulf South; launched a new corporate screening program funded through

philanthropy; and formed a partnership between Mary Bird Perkins – Our Lady of the Lake Cancer Center and Woman's Hospital for breast and GYN cancer. Throughout Brett's tenure as board chair, he was fully dedicated to advancing Mary Bird's mission,” Stevens said.

Furr will remain on the board for two years as Immediate Past Chair. He was elected Board Chair in 2015 and has served on the board since 2007.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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## Healthcare Leader Seiter Reelected to Woman's Foundation Board

Taylor Porter Partner and healthcare practice leader **Pat Seiter** has been reelected for a three-year term to the Woman's Hospital Foundation Board of Directors.



Foundation membership includes 120 physician and community leaders who are dedicated to advancing the hospital's mission to improve the health of women and infants.

## Cullens Elected to WRKF Board of Directors

Taylor Porter Partner **Andrée Cullens** has been elected to the board of WRKF 89.3 FM, the Baton Rouge National Public Radio (NPR) station affiliate. The Board is responsible for the governance of WRKF as a nonprofit, and board members serve as volunteers to aid WRKF's mission and goals. WRKF reaches a 60-mile radius to Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Hammond, Ponchatoula, New Iberia, Morgan City, Opelousas, LaPlace, and Woodville, MS.



## - FURR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 -



*From left: Dr. Jonas Fontenot, Mary Bird Perkins COO and physics chief; Robb Walton, Sr. health policy advisor; Mary Bird Immediate Past Chair **Brett Furr**; and Todd Stevens, Mary Bird CEO.*

Stevens added: "Brett was instrumental in many of Mary Bird's successes. He wanted to be involved and aware of everything to ensure he could provide the strongest possible leadership and help maintain the Cancer Center's position as Louisiana's premier cancer care organization. And his enthusiasm was infectious, inspiring his fellow board members as well as the Mary Bird team."

In 2015, Mary Bird underwent a \$25 million renovation and expansion project that included upgrades for more and enhanced patient services. Other key projects included renovated conference room space and clinical research office, relocating the palliative and supportive care clinic, and the creation of a new specialty pharmacy. "It was an honor to serve as Chair of Mary Bird, and work with Todd, his staff, and some very hard-working board members to maintain the longstanding tradition of the Cancer Center in continuing to provide a state-of-the-art facility that offers innovative treatments and cancer services to improve survivorship and lessen the burden of cancer for patients and their families," Furr said.

Bill O'Quin, President, Financial Services Online, succeeded Furr as Board Chair of Mary Bird Perkins. "During Brett's tenure as Chair, Mary Bird Perkins was presented with some difficult challenges and great opportunities," O'Quin said. "Brett brought a unique set of skills - legal, negotiation and common sense - that helped our executives make and execute the correct courses of action. We appreciate Brett's time, efforts and support of the mission of Mary Bird Perkins. He was the 'right-hand man' for our CEO and will be missed by Todd, our board and management team. My tour of duty will be much easier because of the Brett's accomplishments, but I will still have some very, very big shoes to fill."

At Taylor Porter, Furr engages primarily in a real estate, commercial litigation and banking practice.

Taylor Porter's support of Mary Bird dates back more than 30 years. In 2016, Taylor Porter committed to a pledge to further support the "Take the Fight Forward" campaign for the Center to invest further in new facilities and improved treatment options for patients.

# Taylor Porter Launches Legal Blog: “The Taylor RePorter”

Taylor Porter has launched “The Taylor RePorter,” a legal blog with articles written by the Firm’s attorneys covering developments and legal issues in the various practice areas affecting our clients and contacts.

Ranging from Construction to Healthcare, Labor and Employment to Litigation, Tax to Trademark, Taylor Porter attorneys will work to provide timely, substantive information on the changing legal issues in our breadth of practice areas. Taylor Porter had 24 practice areas ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Best Lawyers in America*® on the 2018 “Best Law Firms” list. The blog can be viewed on the Taylor Porter web site at: <http://www.taylorporter.com/blog/>

**The Taylor RePorter**  
**LEGAL BLOG**

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## 15 Selected Super Lawyers, Rising Stars

Fifteen Taylor Porter attorneys were named to the 2018 lists of *Louisiana Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars.

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**2018 RISING STARS**  
**Super Lawyers**

**2018 Louisiana Super Lawyers**

Barton Crochet Furr Hester McKenzie Philips Tulley Walsh

**2018 Louisiana Rising Stars**

Amedee Easterly French Loupe Thames Touns Tumminello

### SUPER LAWYERS

- Bob Barton - Business Litigation
- Vicki Crochet - Labor and Employment
- Brett Furr - Banking
- Mary Hester - Estate Planning & Probate
- Shelby McKenzie - Insurance Coverage
- Skip Philips - General Litigation
- Fred Tulley - Business Litigation
- Michael Walsh - Criminal Defense

### RISING STARS

- Cindy Amedee - Healthcare
- Tom Easterly - Business Litigation
- Ryan French - Business Litigation
- Blue Loupe - Business/Corporate
- Adam Thames - Med. Mal. Defense
- Robin Touns - Environmental
- Trey Tumminello - Bankruptcy

# AROUND THE FIRM

## Taylor Porter Celebrates Its Forty Under 40 Alumni

With the *Baton Rouge Business Report's* recent selection of Partner **Tom Easterly** for the “Forty Under 40,” Taylor Porter recognizes its attorneys who have been selected for their professional career and volunteer community achievements, including:

- **Preston Castille** (2000)
- **Bob Barton** (2003)
- **Amy Lambert** (2005)
- **Amy Groves Lowe** (2005)
- **Leslie Daniel** (2007)
- **Katie Goodson** (2013)
- **Katia Bowman** (2016)
- **Tom Easterly** (2017)



*Taylor Porter's previous Baton Rouge Business Report "Forty Under 40" honorees include, from left, Amy Lambert, Katie Goodson, Leslie Daniel, Tom Easterly, Amy Groves Lowe, and Preston Castille. Not pictured: Bob Barton and Katia Bowman.*

## Crochet Interviewed for LPB TV Special on Sexual Harassment

Taylor Porter Employment, Labor and Benefits Practice Team Leader **Vicki Crochet** was interviewed by the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Network on Feb. 27, in conjunction with the TV special, “Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment in Louisiana.” Following the interview, a panel discussed the problem of sexual harassment in Louisiana, how to address it, and where the distinction

is drawn between improper and abusive behavior.

In December, Crochet was interviewed by the *Baton Rouge Business Report*, “#BRT00: Baton Rouge Business Scrambling to Understand Sexual Harassment Laws and Policies.” Crochet, Taylor Porter Executive Committee member, practices all areas of employment law. In January

2018, she was selected among the “Top 25 Louisiana Super Lawyers Women Attorneys.”



## John Parker Jr. Elected President of Federal Bar BR Chapter

Taylor Porter Partner **John Parker, Jr.** was elected President of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, an organization committed to serving the needs of federal practitioners in Baton Rouge. Parker previously served in various positions on the chapter's board, including Treasurer and Vice President.

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the FBA consists of nearly 200 members from private practice, government agencies, local law schools and courts. In February, Parker was featured in Baton Rouge Bar Association's *The Baton Rouge Lawyer* in a Q&A about his election and initiatives for his upcoming tenure.

Practicing law since 2009, Parker is a Partner at Taylor Porter, focusing his practice on insurance coverage and defense litigation, public utilities, and commercial litigation.



## Taylor Porter Hosts Southern's Top Jags Program



On Feb. 20, Taylor Porter hosted prospective Southern University students through the “Top Jags” program, which is led by school alumni who assist applicants with important scholarship and college information. Taylor Porter Partner and Executive Committee Member **Preston Castille**, pictured left, serves as National President of the Southern University Alumni Federation. Castille is an adjunct professor of law at Southern University Law School.

## Taylor Porter Sponsors 11th Annual LSBA Diversity Conclave

Taylor Porter was a sponsor of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s 11th Anniversary of the Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession held March 9 in New Orleans. This year’s theme was “Diversity & Inclusion: From Rhetoric to Reality.” The Conclave encourages discussion about diversity within the legal profession.

## Diversity Committee’s BUILD Initiative Plans Boys & Girls Club Trip to State Capitol

In 2017, the Taylor Porter Diversity Committee launched its BUILD (Building Unity, Inclusion, & Legal Diversity) Community Outreach Program. Following its volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity, Taylor Porter is planning a service project for Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Baton Rouge in Spring 2018.

On Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m., Taylor Porter will invite third-to-fifth graders from the Boys & Girls Club to join us for a “Breakfast on the Terrace” with a meet and greet and professional development talk. The breakfast will be followed by a field trip to the Louisiana Old State Capitol for an educational tour featuring such themes as “Political History and Civics” and “Being Responsible Citizens, Elections and the Voting Process.”

Taylor Porter attorneys. Taylor Porter Partner **John McDermott** serves as board of governors chair for the local Boys & Girls Club, while Partner **Erin Sayes Kenny** serves as a board member.

## Cullens Panelist for #MeToo Forum at LSU

Taylor Porter Partner and employment attorney **Andrée Cullens** was one of four panelists for LSU’s “Closing the Gaps #MeToo” discussion forum, organized Feb. 21, by the University Council for Gender Equity (UCGE) in partnership with LSU’s Office of Diversity.

The #MeToo event was hosted by the LSU Women’s Center alongside the Office of Diversity and the University Council on Gender Equity. It is the ninth panel in a series called “Closing the Gaps.”



# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Taylor Porter Sponsors Theatre BR's Production of Cabaret

Taylor Porter was a sponsor of Theatre Baton Rouge's production of "Cabaret," which ran from March 9-25. Taylor Porter Partner **Amy Lambert** serves on the TBR Board of Governors, while Partner **Barrye Miyagi** serves on the Advisory Board.



## Ellis Serves as BRAC's Building Committee Chair During \$3.5-Million Expansion Plan

Taylor Porter Partner **Jim Ellis**, who serves as the Baton Rouge Area Chamber Building Committee Chair, helped develop the plans for the new BRAC Headquarters, which broke ground at 564 Laurel Street, set to open for late summer 2018. The \$3.5-million, 11,000-square foot expansion into the Center for Economic Development will feature large meeting rooms, high-tech presentation spaces, an open floor plan with collaborative work stations, as well as a new conference center able to host BRAC board and other large meetings and training sessions.



## Environmental Group Hosts Practice for Moot Court Team

Taylor Porter hosted a moot court practice for the LSU Law Center's National Environmental Law Moot Court Team, which finished second at the National Environmental Law



Moot Court Competition held at Pace University Law School in White Plains, NY. Taylor Porter attorneys listened to LSU moot court members' arguments and provided feedback. Attorneys serving as practice judges included Practice Group Leader and Partner **Anne Crochet**, Partner and Executive Committee Member **Robin Toups**, Partner **Robert Coco**, Partner **Tim Poché**, and Partner **Tommy Gildersleeve**.

## Philips Volunteers at LSU Law's Flory Mock Trial Competition



Taylor Porter Managing Partner and LSU Law Center Adjunct Professor **Skip Philips** served as a volunteer judge at the 2018 Ira S. Flory Mock Trial Competition, an LSU Law competition that is open to all second- and third-year law students and is sponsored by the Trial Advocacy Board.

## 36th Annual College-Am Benefits LSU Women's Golf

Taylor Porter fielded a team in the College-Am to benefit the LSU Women's Golf program and to kick

off the 36th Annual LSU Tiger Golf Classic, bringing in 12 of the best college teams to the University Club in Baton Rouge, March 23-25.

Taylor Porter Partners **Bob Barton**, **Mike Parker** and **Eddie Hughes** teamed up in the March 22 College-Am with Princeton college golfer Tiana Lau.



## Taylor Porter Sponsors LSU Museum of Art's Exhibit

Taylor Porter was a sponsor of the Bonjour Au Revoir Surréalisme exhibit at the LSU Museum of Art, Shaw Center for the Arts.

Partners **Ann Halphen** (spouse, Bill Schulenberg), and **Nancy Dougherty** (spouse, Cary) attended the opening reception.

Dougherty serves on the LSU Museum of Art's Advisory Board, and Chair of the Nominating and Board Management Committee.



# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Q&A: Partner, Food Bank Board Chair Eddie Hughes

Taylor Porter Partner and Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank Board Chair **Eddie Hughes** was featured in the GBR Food Bank's New Blog Series on Getting to Know the Food Bank Board Members. The local Food Bank distributes approximately 250,000 pounds of food each week to more than 150 agencies within East Baton Rouge Parish and 11 surrounding parishes.

Practicing law since 2004, Hughes serves as the Chair of the Oil/Gas/Regulated Industry practice.

Below is the Q&A featured on the GBR web site:

### **What are some of your hobbies?**

Golf, traveling, spending time with my family, my wife, Ashley, and two children, Caroline and Bracey.

### **Why did you decide to join the Food Bank's Board?**

My good friend, Russell Mosely, was on the board 5 years ago and told me about its inspiring mission. He made me want to be a part of the organization.

### **Why do you think the work of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is important to the community?**

Food availability and hunger impacts every facet of our lives. When people in our community don't know where their next meal is coming from, it disturbs the fabric of our society. Children don't do as well in school and they aren't as healthy as they should be. Some seniors must make a choice between buying medicine or buying healthy food. The working poor must devote a greater proportion of their income to food than those who are more fortunate. The Food Bank helps to ease some of these burdens by helping its agencies provide food to those in need. Those who avail themselves of the food from the Food Bank and its agencies can devote their energies to other issues without worrying where their (or their child's or their elderly parent's) next meal is going to come from.

### **What are you most proud of about the Food Bank/What excites you most about the Food Bank's future?**

We are one of the shining lights in our community. Our employees and board members believe in our mission to help feed the hungry.



We always look for new and innovative ways to bring food to the people in our community who need it. It never ceases to amaze me when one of our staff comes up with a brand new idea that helps expand our reach in our community. I am fortunate that the Food Bank has incredibly professional executive staff and motivated and mission-driven employees who work hard every day to eliminate hunger in this community. And I know that these hardworking people will continue fulfilling the mission even after I leave the Board.

### **What are your goals as Chairman?**

I want to continue to add to the success achieved by my predecessors. This organization went through Katrina and Gustav, and came back stronger. It went through the devastating flood of 2016, and came back stronger.

It not only recovered each time, but thrived because of our dedicated staff and because our community supported our mission. If I can continue to help this organization thrive and distribute even more food to those in need in our community, I will have done my job.



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