

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

*This award was conceived in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and its purpose is to recognize a lawyer for contributions to community leadership outside the practice of law. The award may be conferred upon an individual or upon a group led by an attorney.*



The New Orleans Chapter proudly presents this year's President's Award to Alysson Mills. Alysson is a past chair of the Chapter's Younger Lawyers Division and now serves on its Board of Directors. From her days on the Younger Lawyers' Board to the present, Alysson's calm confidence and generous spirit make her a thoughtful and ever-present part of the Chapter's programming and governance.

She is the "complete package," said Judge Janis van Meerveld, who said that Alysson is a model for the President's Award. Last year's recipient of the President's Award, Scott Sternberg, agreed, saying he has worked with Alysson in a professional and volunteer capacity for more than a decade.

"Alysson has a distinctive sense of empathy blended with peerless intellect," he said. "Whether talking to a high schooler at Justice Camp, arguing at the Fifth Circuit, in a board meeting, or at lunch, I so admire her ability to not only listen, but also to really hear what someone is saying. She is so very deserving of this honor."

Alysson practices in New Orleans and Mississippi, where she grew up. She graduated from the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she served as editor-in-chief of the *Mississippi Law Journal*. She also holds a M.Phil., with distinction, from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

After law school, Alysson clerked for the Honorable E. Grady Jolly, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and joined the New Orleans law firm Fishman Haygood, where she practiced for several years, eventually making Partner. At Fishman Haygood, Alysson says she was enabled and encouraged by her mentors to accept challenging *pro bono* work, and to expand her practice and her personal horizons. While at Fishman Haygood in 2016, she was awarded the Louisiana State Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer award.

Today, at her own firm, she maintains a general litigation practice, and a growing mediation practice that she has grown to love.

Alysson is a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel and accepts appointments to represent indigent federal criminal defendants. She is the court-appointed receiver in *Securities & Exchange Commission vs. Adams, et al.*, No. 3:18-cv-252 (S.D. Miss), and charged with recovering money for victims of a \$100 million Ponzi scheme. She is a member of the Eastern District of Louisiana's *In re Ida Claims* panel of neutrals. She has represented numerous clients pro bono at a federal district court's or the Fifth Circuit's request.

Alysson is a member of several professional organizations and has served on boards of several community organizations. She was the founding chair of Community Academies New Orleans, the governing board of three public charter schools. She has taught at (and has an abiding love for) the Ole Miss Honors College.

Alysson divides her time between New Orleans and Mississippi with Yoshi, her dog, and Nathan, her partner of more than 20 years. She treasures her friends, her clients, and her extended family. Her next adventure begins on August 28, when she and Nathan will become guardians to a two-year-old relative, Natalie.