

# T H E E X A M I N E R

a Louisiana State Board of Nursing production

Vol. 32, No. 4

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Published 4 Times Annually

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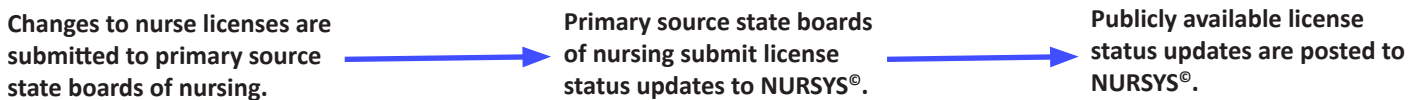
The Mission of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing is to safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are competent and safe.

## FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



On September 18, 2023, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing reported that more than 1 million individual nurses had enrolled in the Nursys e-Notify database. The e-Notify NURSYS® system is the only national nurse licensure and disciplinary database that provides primary source equivalent information to participating boards of nursing, including all jurisdictions that are members of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).<sup>1</sup> Accuracy of this information is assured because the information comes directly from the nursing boards. The system is the repository of license and discipline information that allows state jurisdictions to participate in online verification for endorsement to any nurse who desires to practice in another state. Not only is it available to employees of nursing boards, but healthcare organizations and the public can verify any nursing license and any discipline that may encumber the license. The NURSYS system is trademarked by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN).

Here is how the system works:



E-notify is free of charge to all nursing board jurisdictions and provides real-time licensure and discipline information about nurses employed at each Louisiana institution or individual nurse who uses the service. As this information is entered into the database, it becomes immediately available in real-time. Additionally, the system provides the only unique nurse identifier (UNI) for all nurses upon their first licensure with a nursing board. The UNI facilitates communication between nursing boards while protecting a nurse’s personal information. The number is free to obtain and only available through NURSYS®. The information provided through the e-Notify system is pulled directly from NURSYS® and is considered primary source equivalent for licensure, discipline, and practice privileges for RNs and LPNs. Additionally, some jurisdictions provide APRN information to NURSYS®. Louisiana is one of those states.<sup>2</sup> Louisiana institutions can create an institution account on the NURSYS® website. There are 4 items that must be provided to enroll each nurse in the institution:

1. License Number, License Type, and corresponding Jurisdiction
2. Last 4 digits of Social Security Number
3. Birth Year
4. Work Address.

Items 1 – 3 are only required to enroll the license and are necessary to validate the license record. NURSYS® e-Notify never saves or stores this information. It is only needed to ensure that the institution is enrolling the intended license and to verify the employment information. Large institutions that employ hundreds or thousands of nurses can enroll them all on one xls, csv, etc. file or by using an API to create a secure system-to-system process. Your Information Technology staff will be able to walk you through those processes.

Nurses can enroll individually with NURSYS e-Notify to monitor their nursing licenses. The system will send automatic notifications of pending licensure expiration and will also send emails whenever there is a change to the nursing license. These changes include:

- Active status
- Expiration date
- Nurse Licensure Compact status
- Publicly available discipline and alert actions
- License status.





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To self-enroll, follow these steps available on the NCSBN website.<sup>2</sup>

1. Visit the Nursys e-Notify page, <https://www.nursys.com/e-notify>
  - Or click “Home” in the above menu, then find the dark blue box for Nursys e-Notify and click the grey “Learn more” button at the bottom of the box.
2. Select to register “As a Nurse”.
3. Then click the “Create a nurse account” button.
4. Click “I agree” for the Terms & Conditions.
5. Now add your email address (we suggest using a personal email address as jobs do change) and confirm it.
6. Click the white check box “I’m not a robot” for security verification.
7. Click the black “Submit” button.
8. Go to your email account inbox using another internet window/tab.
9. You should immediately receive an email from Nursys e-Notify containing a link to continue your Nursys e-Notify registration. Click on that link.
10. The link will open the beginning of the registration/survey.
11. Click the black “I agree” button to accept the Terms & Conditions.
12. First, search for your license, then scroll down to see the search results. If you searched by name, you may get multiple options and will need to make sure that you select your record.
13. Click the black “Register” button that appears to the right of your name.
14. You will now be asked the survey questions. Answer to the best of your ability.
15. At the end, click the “Complete” button. This will complete the registration.
16. It will give you a confirmation message, click OK.
17. It then will show your Nursys Nurse Report. You have successfully registered.

There are many benefits to using the e-Notify system. It is a one-stop shop for licensure verification, nurse discipline, and practice verification for all nursing licensees. The information is tracked in real-time and pushed directly from nursing boards. It is live and dynamic and allows jurisdictions to verify licensee information no matter how many jurisdictions the nurse may be licensed in. There is no charge, and it provides both cost and time savings to large institutions to monitor the current licensure status of all nurse employees.

#### Summary of Regulatory Activity for 2023:

- HB 599 (Substituted by HB 652)/Act 296: Provides for signature authority for APRNs to issue certification of illness and extended sick leave for teachers, teaching staff, and bus drivers. Effective 8/1/2023.
- SB 135/Act 207: Provides for Medicaid reimbursement for midwife services at a minimum of 95% of reimbursement rate for physicians; prohibits any decrease of currently authorized reimbursement rate for midwife services for professional midwives and CNMs. Effective 8/1/2023.
- Senate Resolution 160: Senators Luneau and Barrow
  - Urges and requests LSBME, LSBDB, and LSBN to make information regarding collaborative practice agreements publicly accessible to patients. Specifically, the resolution desires to include information on the name of participating providers, their license numbers, the participating APRN’s role(s) and population(s), and the specialty practice of participating physicians or dentists. LSBN already has most of the information available on our website at the [License Verification site, License Lookup \(boardsofnursing.org\)](#)
- January 23, 2023: Meeting with Board of Regents to discuss challenges to increase the health workforce, especially nursing faculty recruitment, improving salaries to facilitate nurse faculty recruitment, practice/academic partnerships, and increasing the pipeline for health workers.
- HCR 44 Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force Playbook completed and submitted.
- HB 181/Act 363: Telemedicine Access for Coroners. Allows for emergency certification designation by PMHNP or other CNP in accordance with guidelines within CPA. The examination may be conducted by telemedicine. Within 72 hours, the patient must be examined independently by a coroner, his deputy, or his assistant. Effective 8/1/2023.





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- HB 319/Act 4: Repeals certain aspects of licensure by endorsement. Repeals RS 37:920(B)(1)(b) in its entirety, eliminating the requirement that an applicant for licensure by endorsement holds a current license issued from the jurisdiction of his last employment. This routinely has only been an issue for internationally educated nurses. While it will require more work for LSBN, we will still be able to check discipline and licensure through CES documents and former employers. Effective 5/23/2023.

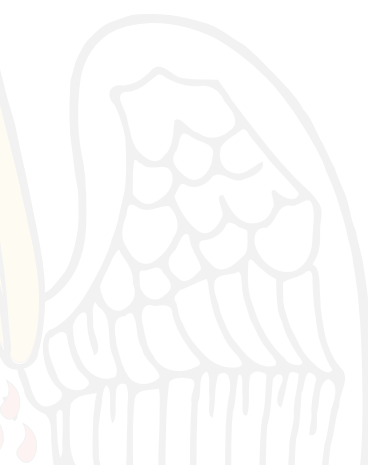
For the Public Trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen C. Lyon".

Karen C. Lyon, PhD, MBA, APRN, NEA<sub>BC</sub>  
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director

References

1. National Council of State Boards of Nursing. [Nursys®](#)
2. National Council of State Boards of Nursing. <https://www.nursys.com/Help/FAQ.aspx>.





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## Chiefs Corner

### Division of Compliance Lauren Byrd Papillion, J.D. Chief Compliance Officer

During the third quarter of 2023, the Compliance Department received 343 complaints. Of the 343 complaints received, 131 new investigations were opened. Department staff closed 104 investigations and as of the end of the third quarter, the department has 501 open investigations, including 33 open Priority One investigations (P1 cases pose an imminent and substantial danger to the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens).

At the end of the third quarter, the Recovering Nurse Program/Monitoring Department had 436 participants – with 172 participants in Monitoring and 264 in RNP (127 in confidential agreements and 137 in disciplinary agreements). RNP welcomed 12 new participants and 23 participants completed the program. Monitoring staff was assigned 51 new participants pursuant to Board Orders and 22 participants completed the terms of their Orders.

During the third quarter, the RNP/Monitoring Department staff met with one potential new treatment center seeking to become Board-recognized and with one existing treatment center to ensure ongoing compliance with Board criteria. Director Beckwith and I conducted a site visit to an existing treatment center seeking to add additional Board-recognized treatment and evaluation services.

### Division of Legal Affairs Carrie LeBlanc Jones Chief Legal Officer / General Counsel

It's hard to believe we are already in October. The first three quarters of 2023 have flown by, and the Hearings Department has been incredibly productive. For Q1-Q3, the Hearings Department docketed 45 cases for administrative hearings. Sixteen of the cases went to a hearing before a Board Panel. The Department has processed 238 Consent Orders, which exceeds the number of Consent Orders the Department has processed each year for the last six years (and we still have three more months to go)!

The Hearings Department Team is also committed to continuing education opportunities and expanding our knowledge base. The Assistant Prosecuting Attorney recently attended the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Regulatory Law Seminar. The seminar provides great learning and networking opportunities for attorneys representing state boards and agencies. The presentations were packed with collaborative education and insight into all aspects of professional licensing and regulatory boards.

### Division of Nursing Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC Chief Credentialing Officer

#### Renewal Reminders

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing's (LSBN) Registered Nurse (RN) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license renewal season began October 1, 2023. The active renewal season ends on December 31, 2023. Applications submitted January 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, are considered late and subject to a late fee. Renewed licenses are issued for a 2-year period, thus renewal of licenses is biennial. The expiration date for licenses renewed this year will be January 31, 2026. The renewal process is electronic through the online LSBN nurse portal. Paper renewal applications are not available. RNs and APRNs who choose not to renew or otherwise wish to voluntarily inactivate, including retire, their active license(s) may do so by submitting an application online through their nurse portal account. Licensees who have a Louisiana license that expires on January 31, 2024, and who elect to maintain active licensure in Louisiana must renew before the expiration date. If the license is not





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renewed prior to this expiration date, the license will lapse at midnight Central Standard Time (CST) on January 31, 2024, which is also when the renewal season ends, and renewal applications are no longer available.

#### **Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC):**

Louisiana is a member of the NLC which means that LSBN can issue multistate licenses (MSLs) to RNs that meet certain eligibility requirements. RNs are eligible to apply for a MSL in their primary state of residence (PSOR) which is typically indicated by the state in which they are authorized to vote and hold a driver's license. The NLC is evolving and currently comprised of 39 jurisdictions in the United States. The current map of the NLC states can be viewed from [here](#).

#### **Verification of Licensure:**

Licensees, employers, and any member of the public can verify a license through LSBN's Licensure Verification service at [License Lookup \(boardsofnursing.org\)](#) in addition to accessing the license verification services available through Nursys.com. RNs and APRNs can also confirm the status and expiration date of their licenses through their personal nurse portal account.

#### **Employers:**

Employers should track the expiration dates, license status, and discipline of RNs and APRNs through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing nurse licensure notification system, Nursys e-Notify. All healthcare entities licensed by the Health Standards Section of the Louisiana Department of Health are required to register with Nursys e-Notify. Nursys e-Notify is a free service that sends data directly to employers and individuals that are enrolled. The system assists employers in maintaining compliance with current regulations and guidelines by remaining informed about RNs and APRNs whose licenses have expired or reflect discipline. More information is at [Nursys®](#).

#### **Nursys e-Notify:**

RNs and APRNs may also enroll in the Nursys e-Notify system as individuals to receive alerts regarding their license status. The Nursys e-Notify system emails and texts enrolled individuals prior to license expiration and after their licenses become inactive, including inactivation due to expiration of the license which may occur due to non-renewal of a license.

Division of Administration  
Isonel M. Brown, MS, MBA  
Chief Administrative Officer

On August 30, 2023, Pinell & Martinez LLC, Certified Public Accountants, issued its independent auditor's report on LSBN's financial statements for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2023. A summary of the auditor's report reflects an "unmodified" opinion with no findings, no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified, and no instances of noncompliance were noted that were material to the financial statements.

Overall, the financial highlights were as follows:

- The Board's total operating revenue increased \$109,911 or approximately 1.25%, and the net results from activities increased by \$699,834 or approximately 47.09% from last fiscal year.
- At June 30, 2023, the Board had \$4,729,524 invested in a broad range of capital assets, including furniture, fixtures, computer equipment and computer software. This amount represents a net decrease of \$170,263 from last year which is the current year depreciation expense.
- Other long term-obligations of the Board at June 30, 2023 included accrued compensated absences in the amount of \$451,943, other post-employment benefits obligations of \$3,813,594, and pension obligations of \$13,524,329.

Should you have any questions about LSBN's financial position, please do not hesitate to contact Isonel M. Brown, Chief Administrative Officer at [browni@lsbn.state.la.us](mailto:browni@lsbn.state.la.us).





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Continuing Education / Practice  
by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC  
Chief Credentialing Officer

**Continuing Education (CE) and Nursing Practice Requirements:**

Licensure renewal involves consideration of regulations related to CE and nursing practice. LSBN's requirements are in alignment with national trends and guidelines of other nursing regulatory agencies in the US. Each year, following renewal season, a random audit is performed by LSBN to ensure compliance with requirements. All Louisiana licensed RNs, except those issued a 1<sup>st</sup> time Louisiana license in the 2023 calendar year, must follow LSBN rules regarding nursing CE and nursing practice requirements.

For RN license renewal, at least one of the two options below must have been completed during the two-year licensure period:

- a. a minimum of 30 board-approved contact hours of continuing education during the two-year licensure period;
- **OR** -----
- b. a minimum of 900 practice hours during the two-year licensure period as verified by the employer on a form provided by the board.

There are no separate CE or nursing practice requirements for renewal of an RN MSL issued by LSBN. Further details including some exceptions and the definition of the practice of nursing and roles that RNs fulfill are available at [CE Brochure \(state.la.us\)](http://state.la.us).

For APRNs with prescriptive authority, each year they must obtain six CEs in pharmacotherapeutics. Act 76 of Louisiana's 2017 legislative session mandated that prescribers of controlled substances in Louisiana obtain three credit hours of CEs as a prerequisite for license renewal. This is a one-time requirement. Content of the CE must include drug diversion training, best practices for the prescribing of controlled substances, appropriate treatment for addiction, and any other content deemed appropriate by the regulatory agency. For additional information, contact LSBN at [renewals@lsbn.state.la.us](mailto:renewals@lsbn.state.la.us).

Education  
by Stacey Jones  
Licensing Analyst Director

**Student Approval to Enroll in Clinical Courses**

According to LAC 46: XLVII.3324.A "Approval by the board is required prior to student enrollment in undergraduate clinical nursing courses." LSBN approval is specific to the school referenced on the application. If a student leaves a program after the application is approved, the Nursing Program Administrator should notify the LSBN. The student must submit a new application if he/she is separated from the program for more than one year or if the student changes nursing programs.

The Nursing Program Administrator and the student are responsible for verifying that the student has been approved by the LSBN before being allowed to enroll and/or progress in Undergraduate Clinical Nursing Courses.

The Nursing Program Administrators must verify that the student's Student Clinical Permit is active before allowing the student to enroll and progress in his/her clinical nursing courses. Verification of the Student Clinical Permit can be completed from the [Licensure Verification](#) section of the Board's Website.

This information is being provided as a reminder to Deans and Directors because LSBN has experienced an increase in students being allowed to enter or progress in clinical nursing courses without clearance from LSBN.





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## Compliance Department 2022 Statistics by Geneva Carter, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC RN Compliance Officer Team Lead

The Investigation Department began the 2022 calendar year with 511 open investigations. During 2022, the Investigations Department opened an additional 471 investigations and closed 739 investigations. Complaints were received almost daily. Every complaint received was screened through our Complaint Review Committee, which thoroughly evaluates the allegation for the Board's jurisdiction and whether the conduct, if substantiated, would violate the Nurse Practice Act (NPA). The NPA establishes the Board's authority and responsibility to ensure those persons who practice nursing are competent and safe; therefore, an investigation may be initiated in relation to claims against Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), as well as Student Nurses (SNs) and imposters.

Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) complaints or potential violations resulting in open investigation starting the calendar year 2022 included 511 individuals. These complaints resulted in open investigations and consideration for disciplinary action by the LSBN. Approximately 62.62% (320) were against Registered Nurses, 24.66% (126) were against Student Nurses, 4.89% (25) were against Endorsement Applicants, and 4.11% (21) were against Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

Multiple sources of complaints are received by LSBN to open an investigation. The largest reporting source of complaints was the LSBN, with 56.75% (290), followed by employers with 24.66% (126). Other reporting entities include but are not limited to, self-report, student file, and law enforcement.

The types of complaints or potential violations resulting in opened investigations varied for 2022. Of the complaints received by LSBN in 2022 and opened for further investigation, 37.38% (191) were criminal conduct. The second and third largest types of complaints received were drug-related, 13.11% (67), and unsafe practice or substandard care, 12.13% (62). Other types of complaints included but were not limited to, drug diversion or misappropriation, and fraud, deception, or misrepresentation.

LSBN staff closed 739 investigations during 2022. Of the investigations closed, the case types included criminal conduct; drug-related; drug diversion or misappropriation; fraud, deception, or misrepresentation (including failure to disclose); unsafe practice or substandard care; substance abuse; mental health; misconduct or abuse; non-compliance with federal state or contractual requirements; confidentiality, consent, and disclosure violations (including social media); and others.







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## Major Motions

### Major Motions and Other Actions Taken at the June 22, 2023 Board Meeting

**Motion to Adopt** the Agenda as amended with the ability to rearrange the Agenda items for efficiency purposes.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the minutes of the April 13, 2023 Board Meeting.

**Motion Carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Consent Agenda Motions

1. LSBN Staff Program Status Reports
  1. NCLEX Report
  2. Accreditation Reports
2. Approved Program Reports
  1. Fletcher Technical Community College – ACEN
  2. SOWELA Technical Community College – ACEN
3. Continuing Education Renewal
  1. Dillard University
4. Education Announcements

**Motion to accept** the Consent Agenda Motions.

**Motion Carried.**

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Motion to approve** the request of the Louisiana Action Coalition to underwrite the cost of the keynote speaker for the 2023 Culture of Health Summit.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** the 2022 Nurse Supply Report.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to adopt** an alternative standard consistent with national nursing accreditation agencies that aligns to the pass rate for each campus site and track is 80% or higher for all takers, first time and repeaters, who pass for the most recent calendar year.

**Motion Carried.**

#### EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION

**Motion to accept** Baton Rouge General Medical Center’s School of Nursing report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the diploma program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** Chamberlain University’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** Louisiana Christian University’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** Louisiana Delta Community College’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Associate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** Louisiana State University at Alexandria’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Associate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** Southern University at Baton Rouge’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** Southern University at Shreveport’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Associate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** William Carey University at Baton Rouge General’s report and action plan regarding the probationary status of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.





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**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept** the letter of intent and feasibility study from Tulane University and approve Step I to establish a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing education degree program.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to rescind** the motion from the April 13, 2023 LSBN Board meeting to approve the request of Troy University to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until April 13, 2026 for the following roles/populations:

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner: Master of Science in Nursing

And further, that the Board approve the request of Troy University to offer graduate clinical experiences in Louisiana until April 13, 2026 for the following roles/populations:

Family Nurse Practitioner: DNP track; MSN and post-graduate certificate (PGC).

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to approve** the major substantive change request from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to add the Accelerated Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing program.

**Motion Carried.**

**DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION**

**Motion to accept and approve** the LSBN Board Resolution for contractual legal services with Shows, Cali & Walsh, LLP.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to accept and approve** the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire.

**Motion Carried.**

**REPORTS**

**Motion to accept** the reports of the President, Vice President, and the CEO/Executive Director as submitted.

**Motion Carried.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to go into** Executive Session for the purposes of hearing the Report on Litigation and Personnel Issues.

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion to adjourn.** Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

**Motion Carried.**

**New Employee Highlight**

**Tolaskie Montgomery – Licensing Analyst – Credentialing Division**

Tolaskie Montgomery is a Licensing Analyst in the Credentialing Division. She is a Baton Rouge native and a proud graduate of Southern University A & M College (BS: Business Management) and Grambling State University (MS: Sports Administration). She enjoys spending time with her family, attending sporting events, food, traveling, and volunteering.



**Telaysia Walker – Licensing Analyst – Credentialing Division**

Telaysia Walker is a Licensing Analyst in the Credentialing Division. She was born and raised in Baton Rouge, La. She received her BS in Business Management from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2019, followed by an opportunity to further her research. This led her to receive her MBA with a project management concentration.



She is a proud member of the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., and she enjoys giving back to her community and helping others in any way possible.

Her favorite color is green (all shades), and she LOVE Reese's. Her hobbies include spending time with her family and her precious son, interior design, and honestly, anything art-related, whether it's fashion, painting, dance, etc.

**Danisha Bennett – Paralegal – Legal Division**

Danisha Bennett is a Paralegal in the Legal Division. She received her degree in Paralegal Studies from BRCC. She loves traveling, trying new restaurants,





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and spending time with her family. She has always been passionate about participating in the legal field since watching one of my favorite past-time shows, Law and Order. She believes in always keeping God first in everything she does and maintaining a positive attitude.

### Disciplinary Matters

The LSBN took a total of 38 actions at the July 19, 2023 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[July 19, 2023](#)

The LSBN took a total of 29 actions at the August 10, 2023 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[August 10, 2023](#)

The LSBN took a total of 59 actions at the September 13, 2023 hearing panel. For a complete listing click the link:

[September 13, 2023](#)

### 2023 State Holiday Schedule

Veterans Day.....	November 10, 2023
Thanksgiving Day.....	November 23, 2023
Christmas Day.....	December 25, 2023

### Future Board Meeting Dates

- December 14, 2023
- February 22, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- June 13, 2024
- August 8, 2024
- October 10, 2024
- December 5, 2024

