



#### Whitney M. Young, Jr. Gala

Thursday, July 31, 2025 - Reception 6:00 – Dinner and Program 7:00 Dillard University, Lucien Pavilion /Professional Schools & Sciences Bldg. (PSB Atrium)



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Mr. Marcus V. Brown, Executive VP and General Counsel of Entergy - Marcus V. Brown is executive vice president and general counsel of Entergy Corporation, where he oversees the company's legal, ethics and compliance, corporate communications, external affairs, corporate security, and governance functions. He serves as chief legal counsel to the chair and CEO, board of directors, and senior leadership, while leading a team of approximately 75 attorneys across 10 jurisdictional offices and six practice groups.

Since joining Entergy in 1995 from the New Orleans-based Stone Pigman law firm, Brown has held several leadership roles, including vice president, deputy general counsel, senior vice president, and general counsel. In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike, he led efforts to recover over \$500 million in insurance proceeds critical to rebuilding Entergy's electric and gas infrastructure. Promoting sustainable business practices that balance environmental, social, governance, and economic objectives, Brown has been instrumental in advancing Entergy's growth strategy.

A champion of community service, Brown launched a 2012 initiative that significantly expanded Entergy's pro bono legal efforts, resulting in more than 22,000 hours of service by 2024. Under his leadership, Entergy's legal department earned numerous recognitions, including the 2025 Laurie D. Zelon Pro Bono Award from the Pro Bono Institute and Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year from the New Orleans Pro Bono Project.

Brown serves on the board of directors for Tulane University and Energy Insurance Mutual and on advisory boards for energy law centers at Tulane and Louisiana State University. He chaired the New Orleans 2025 Super Bowl LIX Host Committee and frequently speaks on issues impacting the utility sector and the legal profession.

His numerous honors include the Financial Times' recognition as a top global general counsel (2020), the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's Exemplar Award (2020), the United Way Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award (2021), the Louisiana State Bar Association Distinguished Attorney Award (2019), and the New Orleans Bar Association Presidents' Award (2018). Brown earned a B.A. from Southern University A&M College, a J.D. from the Southern University Law Center (where he served on the Law Review), and an MBA from Tulane University A.B. Freeman School of Business.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Dr. Takeisha C. Davis – Dr. Takeisha Davis is the Chief Executive Officer of New Orleans East Hospital (NOEH), where she leads a team of more than 120 physicians and nearly 300 employees. Under her leadership, the hospital has achieved financial stability, expanded its services to meet the needs of the New Orleans East community, and established a dedicated physician group to serve the area's 90,000 residents.

A native of New Orleans and a proud daughter of New Orleans East, Dr. Davis is deeply committed to advancing health equity and access in the community where she was raised. She earned her undergraduate degree from Xavier University, a Doctorate of Medicine from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University. She brings extensive expertise in clinical care, community healthcare systems management

engagement, and healthcare systems management.

Before joining NOEH, Dr. Davis spent a decade with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, where she served as Director of the Center for Community and Preventive Health, Medical Director, and Assistant State Health Officer for the Office of Public Health.

Dr. Davis serves on the Mayor of New Orleans' Healthcare Advisory Board and has received numerous recognitions for her leadership, including the City of New Orleans Women in Leadership Award. She was recently named to Becker's list of top female hospital and health system leaders nationwide for her exemplary oversight and transformative impact on healthcare delivery in New Orleans East.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Congressman Cleo C. Fields - Cleo Fields is an elected member of the United States House of Representatives, serving Louisiana's 6th Congressional District. With over three decades of public service, Fields has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Louisianans through leadership, vision, and action.

Cleo currently is working to address the needs of his constituents and advance the priorities of Louisiana.

A graduate of McKinley High School and Southern University, Fields earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center in 1987. At just 24, he made history as the youngest person ever elected to the Louisiana State Senate. In 1992, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, becoming the youngest member of the 103rd Congress.

Cleo has been a tireless advocate for education, economic development, and community empowerment. He authored impactful legislation such as the Delta Initiatives Act and founded the Congressional Classroom—now the Louisiana Leadership Institute—to inspire and develop the next generation of leaders.

After a historic run for governor of Louisiana in 1995, Fields returned home to develop his law practice, The Fields Law Firm. However, Cleo's passion for service wasn't extinguished, as he was re-elected to the State Senate in 1997-2012 and again in 2019. His time in the senate has allowed him to serve as Chair of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, Chairman of Education, Local and Municipal Affairs and Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Cleo is married to his wife, Debra, and they have two adult sons, Brandon and Christopher. A long-time member of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, he remains deeply committed to serving his community and improving opportunities for all Louisianans.



Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Honoree – Mr. Luther Speight, CPA is the founder and managing partner of Luther Speight & Company CPAs, a respected accounting firm known for its commitment to financial integrity and precision. Luther is widely recognized as a subject matter expert in the accounting profession. Headquartered at 1100 Poydras Street, Suite 1225, in New Orleans, LA, the firm has earned a reputation as a trusted leader in accounting services throughout the region. Under Luther's strategic leadership, the firm has expanded its client services area with offices in Atlanta and Memphis, offering a broad suite of services, including auditing, consulting, and project management.

Luther is a proud alumnus of McDonogh 35 Sr. High School and was honored as a Centennial Wall of Fame Inductee. Luther graduated from Clark Atlanta University with top honors in accounting and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in the states of Louisiana, Tennessee and Georgia.

His professional achievements have been featured in prominent outlets such as **Bloomberg**, and he continues to be an active contributor to the business community through his involvement with organizations like the **New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce**.

Luther's dedication to education and community uplift is reflected in the Luther Speight Scholarship Program, which was refocused in the past year to deepen its local impact. The firm now proudly sponsors \$10,000 annually in college scholarships for students in the Greater New Orleans area, supporting their academic journeys and helping alleviate the financial barriers to higher education.

From building a successful multi-state CPA practice to investing in the next generation through philanthropy, Luther Speight exemplifies leadership, service, and a steadfast commitment to excellence in both business and community endeavors.

## Keynote Speaker – Attorney James M. Williams



### Partner, Chehardy Sherman Williams | New Orleans, LA

Attorney James M. Williams is a nationally recognized trial attorney and a partner at Chehardy Sherman Williams. Known for his courtroom tenacity and intellect, Williams has tried complex cases in 15 states, Puerto Rico, and internationally in Milan, Italy. His exceptional skill has earned him national acclaim-Savoy Magazine named him one of the "Top Must Have Lawyers in the Country," and

he has been listed among the "Top 100 High Stakes Litigators" in America. He is also recognized among the "Nation's Top One Percent" of attorneys by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. Attorney Williams' presence at the Gala as keynote speaker adds tremendous distinction to this already prestigious event. His voice and vision are rooted in justice, equity, and leadership—reflecting the legacy of Whitney M. Young, Jr. himself.



### Event Chair – Lambert C. Boissiere, III

Gala Team- growing each day : Lambert C. Boissiere III, Ronald V. Burns, Sr., Richard Cortizas, Rachel Cousin, MsSkip Gibson, Reginald Grace, Councilman Eugene J. Green, Nick Harris, Adrian Long, Demetric M. Mercadel, Charles L. Rice Jr., Pat Talley, Jimmie M. Woods, Sr., and Terry L. Williams

Organization Facts - The Southeast Louisiana Council, Boy Scouts of America will provide youth development and leadership programs to approximately 3,500 young people in nine parishes through Cub Scouting, Scouts-BSA, Venturing, Exploring and Learning for Life programs during 2024.

#### "Funds invested in this event will support programs focused on serving inner-city youth.":

- Program Services Camping, activities, training, insurance, uniforms, Scout books
- Support Services Equipment, Salmen Scout Reservation, trained adult mentors. •
- Individual Scouts "An opportunity to help youth in need experience the life-changing benefits of • Scouting."

"Funds raised will support the Emerging Markets District, serving inner-city and rural youth in Greater New Orleans and the surrounding areas."

# <u> Y Sponsorship Opportunities</u>

- Title Sponsor: \$20,000 Three full tables seating for 24 guests Recognition in all event promotions Company logo in program – special acknowledgement from the podium
- Presenting Sponsor: \$15,000 Three full tables for 24 guests Recognition in all event promotions Company logo in program - special acknowledgement from the podium
- Platinum Sponsor: \$10,000 Two full tables for 16 guests Recognition in all event promotions-Company logo in program - special acknowledgement from the podium
- Gold Sponsor: \$5,000 Two full tables for 16 guests Recognition in all event promotions- Company logo in program – special acknowledgement from the podium
- Silver Sponsor: \$2,500 One full tables for 8 guests Recognition in all event promotions- Company • logo in program
- Bronze Sponsor: \$1,000 Admits 4 guests Recognition in all event promotions- Company logo in program
- Friend of the Village: \$500 Admits 2 guests Recognition in all event promotions- Company logo in • program
- Individual Ticket(s): \$250 Admits 1 guest Company logo in program •

💬 Though I cannot attend, I am pleased to enclose a \$ contribution to the Southeast Louisiana Council, BSA, in support of the Emerging Markets Scout District.

# **Registration Form for the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Gala**

Sponsors are encouraged to invite their guests to enjoy the progray youth development programs.	
Company/ Organization Name	
Contact PersonE-Mail	
Address	
Phone	Fax
Please choose one:I/We will be attending.	I/We will not be able to attend.
() Title Sponsor \$20,000 () Presenting Sponsor \$15,000	() Platinum Sponsor \$10,000 () Gold Sponsor \$5,000
() Silver Sponsor \$2,500 () Bronze Sponsor \$1,000	( ) Friends of the Village $500$ ( ) Investor $250$
Other \$	
Online registration – <u>www.bsa-selacouncil.org/whitney</u>	
Payment Method:MastercardVISA Credit Car	rd #
Exp CVVName on Credit Card	
Check EnclosedBill me Scan the QR code to register and donate online:	

Return to: Boy Scouts of America P.O. Box 1146 Metairie, LA 70004 – Fax 504-889-1162. For more information, contact Todd Conner at (office) 504-889-0388 or (cell) 504-810-1683 or via email at todd.conner@scouting.org for more information.



