



Bobby Jindal
Governor

Frank X. Neuner, Jr.
Chairman

Jean M. Faria
State Public Defender

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

Contact: Anne Gwin
(225) 219-1158

PRESS STATEMENT

LPDB Board Member and FFLIC Director Named 'Louisianan of the Year'

BATON ROUGE -- In its January-February 2012 issue, Louisiana Life Magazine recognized Gina Womack as its 'Louisianan of the Year' in the Civic Activist Category. Ms. Womack is a Louisiana Public Defender Board member and co-founder and Executive Director of the non-profit group Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children (FFLIC).

Ms. Womack began her activism working for the Juvenile Justice Project in the late-90's and in September 2001, co-founded FFLIC. FFLIC works to improve the lives of young people involved in the juvenile justice system, targeting the school-to-prison pipeline, incarceration policies, and other juvenile justice issues. One of the organization's biggest successes was the passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2003, which led to the closing of the Tallulah Correctional Center, which had a national reputation of abuse and other problems. FFLIC credits its success to its members - empowered parents, family members and other allies who have had first-hand contact with Louisiana's juvenile justice system.

About its award winners, Louisiana Life Magazine says, "We present here our first class of Louisianans of the Year. In doing so we defined some key categories: Conservationist, Visual Artist, Civic Activist, Educator, Celebrity, Chef, Musician and Entrepreneur. There are other important, higher profile categories that we could have looked at – politics and sports being among them – but these chosen eight represent to us an impressive cross-section of local creativity. Thanks to all of them for their good works; thanks to all of you for providing an active state in which those works can be appreciated."

Gina Womack has served the Louisiana Public Defender Board since June 2008, as the appointed representative of the Louis A. Martinet Society. Frank Neuner, Chairman of the Board says, "LPDB is proud to announce that Gina Womack has been recognized for her achievements by Louisiana Life Magazine. LPDB board members, staff and practitioners across the state have benefitted from the many years that Ms. Womack has dedicated to improving the public defense and juvenile justice system in Louisiana."

In pursuit of equal justice, the Louisiana Public Defender Board advocates for clients, supports practitioners and protects the public by continually improving the services guaranteed by the constitutional right to counsel. Through its commitment to performance standards, ethical excellence, data-driven practices and client-centered advocacy, the Louisiana Public Defender Board oversees the delivery of high quality legal services affecting adults, children and families, and supports community well-being across Louisiana.