



# Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **LA Ethics 1 Supports Special Legislative Session on Governmental Ethics**

Baton Rouge, LA (February 1, 2008) LA Ethics 1, the statewide coalition of more than 50 business and civic organizations pushing for governmental ethics reform in Louisiana, expressed its support of the special legislative session announced today by Governor Jindal to transform Louisiana into a national model for governmental ethics laws and enforcement. The results of the special session scheduled for February 10 through February 29 could dramatically improve the negative brand image that has long been associated with the state. The coalition also announced that it will convene next week to review the Governor's call issued this afternoon.

Despite meaningful progress in recent years, Louisiana has a long and colorful history of government corruption, which has left our state with a brand associated with a lack of integrity and transparency in government. Business executives nationwide suggest that this brand image is a significant obstacle to Louisiana's economic development efforts.

Dramatic improvements to governmental laws and enforcement would position Louisiana as a state known for honest, transparent, and accountable government. Success with broad-based governmental ethics reform would also enable communities across the state to vigorously counter negative historical assumptions held by some business prospects.

The coalition, which successfully passed three ethics reform bills in last year's regular session, is enthusiastic about the upcoming special session based on the scope of the Governor's call. LA Ethics 1 is hopeful about the possibility of accomplishing most, if not all, of its priorities in only its second year of existence.

#### **About LA Ethics 1:**

LA Ethics 1 is a coalition of prominent Louisiana business and civic organizations that support a reform agenda designed to position our state as a national model for governmental ethics laws and enforcement. The coalition consists of the following organizations: 100 Black Men, Ascension Chamber of Commerce, Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce, Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing, Bossier Chamber of Commerce, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, Common Cause Louisiana, Feliciana Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Greater New Orleans Inc., Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Hammond Chamber of Commerce, Iberville Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, Louisiana Technology Council, Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business, New Orleans Business Council, Opelousas-St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, River Region Chamber of Commerce, Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, St. Mary Industrial Group, St. Mary Parish Chamber of Commerce, The Chamber/Southwest Louisiana, The Greater Tangipahoa, Thibodeaux Chamber of Commerce, West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, and West Feliciana Community Development Foundation. For additional information on this effort and the latest listing of organizations comprising LA Ethics 1, please visit <http://www.laethics1.com/>.