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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

US Attorney and Xavier Alum Ronald C. Gathe, Jr. to speak at Xavier University of Louisiana's annual Black History Month Convocation

New Orleans, La. - [Xavier University of Louisiana's](#) annual Black History Month Convocation will take place on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 12:15 p.m. at Xavier's Convocation Center.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is the university's official celebration of Black History Month. Each year, Xavier University honors the achievements of African Americans to recognize the vital role Blacks have played throughout history. Xavier's Black History Convocation ceremony is a celebration of Black excellence and the success of Xavierites who have and continue to make history while striving to bring about a more just and humane society.

This year's national Black History month theme is *Black Health and Wellness*, celebrating Black trailblazers' contributions to medicine. The theme also celebrates Black communities by commemorating cultural practices that have been used to improve health and wellness. This event will pay tribute to African American advancements that have left a lasting impact on society and the institution's continuance of its vibrant mission to create a more just and humane society.

This year's guest speaker is Xavier University alumnus Ronald C. Gathe Jr. (91), who was sworn in as the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana in December 2021 after being nominated by President Biden.

"During Black History Month, we celebrate the success of our Xavierites, old and new," said **Xavier University President Reynold C. Verret**. "We are honored to share in the success of Ronald C. Gathe Jr., and we hope that his words can inspire current Xavierites who hope to make a difference in the world someday."

Gathe has more than two decades of experience as a prosecutor. He served for 19 years as an Assistant District Attorney and Section Chief in the Office of the District Attorney for the 19th Judicial District Court, where he was the first Black Section Chief responsible for prosecuting a wide range of criminal matters, including crimes of violence, theft, and various drug charges. He also served as the Chief of Trials for the 18th Judicial District Office of the District Attorney, where he was responsible for training assistant district attorneys and supervising all trials.

"I'm really looking forward to this part of this chapter of my life and look forward to serving the people of Louisiana," Gathe stated to [Justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov).

In addition to serving as a nominated public official, Gathe operated his private practice at the Law Offices of Ronald C. Gathe, Jr. & Associates, L.L.C., where he concentrated on general areas of law, including personal injury, estate planning, and corporate matters.

A Baton Rouge, Louisiana native, Gathe received his B.S. from Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, and his Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge. In addition to his commitment to his community and serving others, Gathe makes his contribution to Black history as the first President of the Louisiana Black Prosecutors Association, part of the [National Black Prosecutors Association \(NBPA\)](#), an organization he helped establish to aid the advancement of Black people as prosecutors in Louisiana.

The event will be livestreamed [here](#).

About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier University of Louisiana, America's only historically Black and Catholic University, is ranked among the top three HBCUs in the nation. Recognized as a national leader in STEM and health sciences, Xavier produces more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Additionally, Xavier's College of Pharmacy is also among the top producers of African American pharmacists in the country.

*Established in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African Americans and Native Americans to receive a quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in art, business, education, biological sciences, chemistry, pharmacy and political science. More recent additions in robotics, bioinformatics, engineering, data science, neuroscience and genetics, in addition to new STEM-based master's programs, have provided Xavier students (2815 undergraduates and 787 graduates) an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities and life experiences. Xavier students collaborate with world-renowned faculty, who are experts in their fields, to produce award-winning research and notable work. **The winning Xavier formula provides students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls, thereby facilitating a more just and humane society for all.***

For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications, and the arts, contact Chelsea Cunningham at (504) 520-5425 or ccunnin5@xula.edu.

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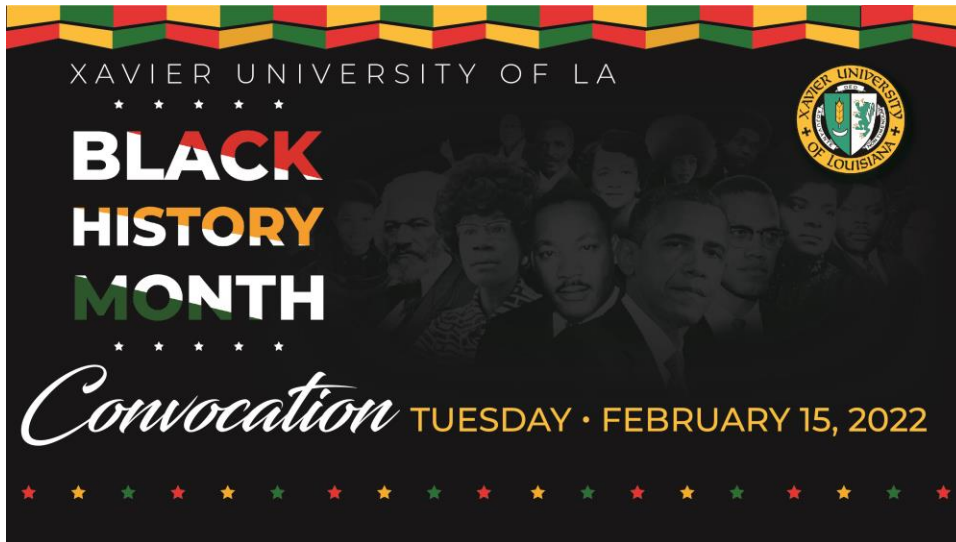


Photo to include in press release submission:



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ronald C. Gathe, Jr., was sworn in as the first Black U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana on December 13, 2021, after being nominated by President Joseph R. Biden. As the district's chief federal law enforcement, Mr. Gathe is responsible for enforcing the federal criminal laws, representing the U.S. government in civil proceedings, and managing programs for the community and state and local law enforcement to keep the district safe. In addition, he serves as the executive director for the Center of Disaster Fraud. The mission of the National Center for Disaster Fraud is to improve and further the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of fraud related to natural and manmade disasters and to advocate for victims of such fraud.

Previously, he served as the Chief of Trials for the 18th Judicial District, Office of the District Attorney, where he was responsible for training the assistant district attorneys and supervising all trials held in the district, encompassing the West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee and Iberville Parishes. Also, Mr. Gathe was the first Black Section Chief for the 19th Judicial District, Office of the District Attorney, where he was responsible for prosecuting a broad range of felony crimes, including homicides, rapes, robberies, and other crimes of violence.

Mr. Gathe is a native of Baton Rouge, where he attended St. Francis Xavier School and Catholic High of Baton Rouge. He received his Bachelor of Science from Xavier University of Louisiana and his Juris Doctor from Southern University Law Center.

Upon graduating from law school, he worked as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable James Best in the 18th Judicial District. Mr. Gathe has also served as an Adjunct Professor at Southern University Law Center, where he taught Criminal Procedure, Criminal Law and Trial Advocacy. He was also the supervisor of Southern University Law Center Externs, who try actual cases through the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Gathe was awarded the honor of Distinguished Alumni at Southern University Law Center.

Mr. Gathe has served as the First President of the Louisiana Black Prosecutors Association, which he helped establish. While President, Louisiana was awarded Chapter of the Year. He has also served as Regional Director, Vice President of Membership, and Treasurer of the National Black Prosecutors Association. He was acknowledged by the National Black Prosecutors Association at the National Convention for having 15 years of experience as a prosecutor. He also received the NBPA President Special Recognition Award.

XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LA

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Convocation

with keynote speaker

RONALD C. GATHE, JR.

February 15, 2022 · 12:15 pm
Xavier Convocation Center



ABOUT THE EVENT

Black History Month Convocation is the university's official celebration of Black History Month. Each year, Xavier University honors the achievements of African Americans to recognize the central role blacks have played in shaping United States history.

February 12, 1926, marked the first week-long celebration by African American historian and Harvard scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson. It expanded to a month-long celebration in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial.

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