



On November 8th, 2022, Royce Duplessis was elected to serve as Louisiana State Senator for District 5. He represented District 93 in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 2018-2022. While serving in the legislature, he passed commonsense criminal justice reforms, championed legislation to expand access to affordable healthcare, prioritized efforts to allow for paid sick leave, worked to make housing more affordable, fought to enact a living wage, and more. Among his biggest accomplishments, Sen. Duplessis passed legislation to require universal perinatal mood disorder screening, and to end solitary confinement for juveniles. He also passed legislation extending Louisiana's Earned Income Tax Credit to help low-income workers.

He ran for public office in order to better serve those who are underserved and marginalized—focusing on living wages for the working class, increased access to quality early childhood education, and smarter criminal justice policies.

Sen. Duplessis was raised in a home that fostered concern for others and the belief that everyone deserves fair treatment and the opportunity to succeed in life. One of his first examples was his father, who served children with disabilities as an Adapted Physical Education Teacher for the Orleans Parish School System. Sen. Duplessis also inherited an entrepreneurial spirit from his grandparents, who owned and operated a small corner grocery store during the 1950s-70s. While attending St. Augustine High School, Sen. Duplessis worked summers as a bricklayer's assistant; and while attending Xavier University, he supported himself by earning tips working as a busboy at Mandina's Restaurant.

After Hurricane Katrina, he immersed himself in rebuilding his community by serving as chief of staff to former New Orleans City Councilmember James Carter. He then moved to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University School of Law, where he founded the Howard Energy and Environmental Law Society to advocate for environmental justice. He also worked as an intern at the Environmental Protection Agency and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. After serving as a law clerk for Judge Thomas J. Motley on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Sen. Duplessis returned home to practice energy law with a multinational law firm.

As special counsel for former Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court Bernette Johnson, Sen. Duplessis championed criminal justice reform after observing the human impact of inefficiencies and inequities in our criminal justice system. He worked to change the system by spearheading the management of a half-million-dollar grant to develop and adopt better

practices for assessing and collecting court costs, fines, and fees. In addition, as a past chairman of the New Orleans City Planning Commission, Sen. Duplessis fought to protect and preserve the character of New Orleans' historic neighborhoods, while nurturing social innovation and improving the quality of life for all residents. Sen. Duplessis now has his own legal practice, the Duplessis Law Firm, and has had many successes primarily focusing on civil litigation.

Sen. Duplessis' leadership, dedication to the community, and public service have been recognized by the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (2022 Mondale-Brooke Award), Louisiana Center for Development and Learning (2021 Legislator of the Year), the E Pluribus Unum Fund (2021 Fellow), the Childcare Association of Louisiana (2019 Legislator of the Year), and the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute (2017 Fellow; Leadership Award Recipient). He was also honored as one of Xavier University of Louisiana's 2015 40 Under 40, is a member of the Education Leadership Institute (2016 Fellow), and the New Leaders Council (2014 Fellow). In 2012, he was elected to serve on the Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee.

In March of 2023, Senator Duplessis was awarded the Calogero Champion of Justice Award for his commitment to youth justice, his partnership with Louisiana Center for Children's Rights at the state legislature, and his tireless efforts to make his community a better and more just place.

He is currently serving on the Board of the Innocence Project New Orleans, Total Community Action, Justice and Accountability Center, and the Governor's Council on the Success of Black Men and Boys.

Since 2012, Sen. Duplessis has volunteered as a mentor to male teenagers through the nationally-renowned Silverback Society. He is a past president of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and used his presidency to increase the society's commitment to legal access by conducting numerous free legal services and outreach clinics across New Orleans. He is also the co-founder and past president of the A.P. Tureaud, Sr. Legacy Committee, with the mission to honor the legacy of preeminent Louisiana civil rights attorney, A.P. Tureaud, Sr., and to educate the public about the remarkable contributions of other social justice heroes.

Sen. Duplessis is married to Krystle Ferbos Duplessis, and they are the proud parents of one daughter, Reese. They reside in Central City.

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