

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit [www.lsba.org/atj](http://www.lsba.org/atj).

## Access to Justice Tech Summit focuses on communication, social media tools

Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice (ATJ) Technology Counsel Linda K. Johnson organized a Tech Summit on Dec. 6, 2013, to bring together a diverse group of individuals who use technology to collaborate, develop projects, and keep their communities apprised of endeavors and projects. These tasks closely resembled the needs identified by legal non-profits in a pre-summit survey.

To discuss those needs and propose solutions, Tech Summit participants included individuals from small and large law firms, non-profit public interest organizations, a local law school and ATJ staff. Moderator and longtime ATJ supporter, Adriana Linares, guided participants as they addressed technology issues relevant to the work of Louisiana's non-profit legal community.

Improving the level of communication with clients, the local community and judiciary was identified as an important goal and social media was identified as a tool to assist programs in increasing and improving regular communication as well as reporting their successes, needs and ongoing projects. To assist organizations that have not implemented organizational social media platforms, members accepted the task to construct toolkits for creating Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, a basic website using WordPress, and RSS feeds.

These free open source technologies can benefit programs and aid them in communicating their positive impact on their communities.

Legal non-profit participants emphasized the need to improve overall computer competence of their staffs. Training on applications currently used could raise the general efficiency of their offices. In support of these observations, participants agreed that planning a Technology Conference for attorneys and support staff is a worthy long-term goal. Members of this group agreed to form the nucleus of a group to support ATJ technology initiatives.

Special thanks to participants Shannon Dosemagen, Public Laboratory; Abid M. Hussain, Hussain Law, L.L.C.; R. Judson Mitchell, Loyola University College of Law; Gregory L. Landry and Marilyn Lopez, Acadiana Legal Services Corp.; Sascha Bollag, Greater New Orleans Fair Action Housing Center; Matthew Hamey, Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.; Louise Bienveille and Mark McCarley, NoAids Task Force; Lisa J. Stansky, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corp.; and moderator Adriana Linares, LawTech Partners.

If you are interested in helping support legal organizations through technology, email ATJ Technology Counsel Linda K. Johnson at [ljohnson@lsba.org](mailto:ljohnson@lsba.org).

## Children's Law Committee completes "Court System" video

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Children's Law Committee has completed production of its video titled "Who's Looking Out for Me? An Introduction to the Court System." The video will serve as an orientation tool for children involved in Child in Need of Care

proceedings.

This project follows the success of a foster care orientation film created by the committee several years ago.

"Who's Looking Out for Me?" will be available in both English and Spanish. The video will soon be accessible on the Children's Law Committee webpage, [www.](http://www.lsba.org/ChildrensLaw)

## 2014 Pro Bono, Children's Law Awards deadline is Feb. 14

Do you have a pro bono hero? Someone who has shown dedication and leadership in the world of pro bono work?

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Committee is currently seeking nominations for several 2014 Pro Bono Awards. The Pro Bono Awards, to be presented at a pro bono reception in May, recognize pro bono and public interest attorneys dedicated to serving Louisiana's indigent population.

The 2014 awards will include the Friend of Pro Bono Award, the Pro Bono Publico Award, the Career Public Interest Award, the David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award, the Law Student Award and the Century Club Award.

Also, the LSBA's Children's Law Committee will present the Children's Law Award at the May reception.

Nominations must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, for all awards. For more information on the award categories and submission information, go to: [www.lsba.org/goto/nominations](http://www.lsba.org/goto/nominations).



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