

Focus on *Access to Justice*

For more information, visit www.lsba.org/atj.

Internship program established to cultivate future ATJ leaders

Participants attending the March 2015 Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Summit concluded that cultivating the next generation of access to justice leaders should not only be a priority but is necessary as sensible succession planning to ensure continued efforts within Louisiana's justice community.

In response, representatives of the LSBA, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Louisiana civil legal aid providers, the Louisiana District Judges Association, Louisiana law schools, the Louisiana Supreme Court and the private bar joined forces to create the Access to Justice Developing Leadership Intern Program.

This initiative is an opportunity for law students to gain the insight and skills

needed to become the next generation of access to justice leaders. Only four students, having completed their first year of law school, will be selected to participate in the program. Interns — one from each of Louisiana's four law schools — will be sponsored by law firms with records of dedication to access to justice issues. Interns will work with civil legal aid programs and the sponsoring law firms — Adams and Reese, L.L.P.; Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C.; Jones Walker LLP; and Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.

Weekly programming will focus on the various civil legal needs of low-income people, the ways in which organizations within the justice community address those needs, and how these services are increasing the quality of life for those served.

Interns will gain hands-on experience with Louisiana's civil legal aid and legal services organizations including, but not limited to, interviewing clients, attending court hearings and participating in community outreach efforts.

Additionally, interns will have the opportunity to meet Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, as well as state and federal appellate and trial court judges who have been actively involved in developing and supporting pro bono and access to justice efforts throughout Louisiana.

The internship program will be conducted during the five-week period from May 23 to June 24. Interns will receive a \$2,500 stipend for their participation. 

Online nominations open for 2016 Pro Bono, Children's Law Awards

Nominations for the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) 2016 Pro Bono and Children's Law Awards are now being accepted online by the Access to Justice Committee. Nominations must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19.

Awards recognize outstanding achievement in several categories — Law Student Award, Friend of Pro Bono Award, Pro Bono Publico Award, Career Public Interest Award and the David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award. Also, attorneys who have provided more than 100 hours of volunteer services are recognized with the LSBA Century Club Award.

Award recipients will be honored at a May 24 reception hosted by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

For more information on the award categories and submission information,

Louisiana State Bar Association



Providing Justice for All

<https://apps.lsba.org/nominations>

go to: <https://apps.lsba.org/nominations>. Once there, log in as an LSBA member or guest. For assistance, email ATJ Administrative Assistant Nicole Louque at nicole.louque@lsba.org. 

BAR 101 ONLINE VIDEO SERIES

To see Bar 101 videos, visit www.lsba.org/Members/bar101.aspx

The Bar 101 Video Series offers a quick look inside different aspects of the LSBA. Learn about new and noteworthy LSBA projects, free professional services offered by the Bar, and how the Association can aid in everyday practice management. Everyone can learn something new from this series, from the newest LSBA members to the most seasoned attorneys.

LIFT Legal Incubator and Accelerator Program accepting 2016 applications through March 11

The Legal Innovators For Tomorrow (LIFT) program is currently accepting applications for its 2016 class of incubator participants. Applications are due by March 11.

Louisiana licensed attorneys with up to five years' practice experience who plan to develop, or have begun to develop, a solo or small law practice focused on serving unmet legal needs are invited to apply. The application is available online at: <http://files.lsba.org/documents/ATJ/liftapp.pdf>.

Operated by the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Access to Justice Department, the LIFT statewide legal incubator and accelerator program is designed to increase access to legal services for low- and moderate-income Louisiana residents. The program provides new lawyers with the resources and support needed to develop public interest-focused solo firms that employ innovative solutions to addressing unmet legal needs.

Among the goals of LIFT are:

- ▶ assisting new attorneys to develop successful solo and small law firms;
- ▶ encouraging public interest and social justice-oriented practices;
- ▶ providing affordable professional legal services for modest-means clients; and
- ▶ helping to bridge the gap for those who would not otherwise qualify for free legal aid.



Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) President Mark A. Cunningham, standing fifth from left, joined members of the 2014 and 2015 LIFT Classes. Seated from left, LSBA Access to Justice Training and Project Counsel Amy E. Duncan; and class member Erica L. Andrews. Standing from left, class members Nicholas J. Hite, Latisha-Nixon Jones, Carlton J. Miller and Betty A. Maury; Cunningham; class members John Love Norris IV, Corinne S. Beth and DeVonn H. Jarrett.

LIFT's 18-month program is divided into three phases. Each phase focuses on different aspects of developing a law practice and honing substantive law skills for new attorneys. During each phase, mentoring, CLEs and other law practice management training are provided.

▶ Phase 1, Start Up (0-6 months): Participants meet monthly and receive basic training in ethics and professionalism, entity-choice formation and law practice management, with a focus on technology solutions for the virtual office. During this phase, participants are required to dedicate some of their time to pro bono work.

▶ Phase 2, Business Development (6-12 months): Attorneys are assisted in developing a market plan for their practices while receiving training in procedural and substantive law.

▶ Phase 3, Strategic Planning and Practice Management (12-18 months): The second year of the program helps attorneys to develop long-term goals and a five-year business plan. Attorneys are assisted with implementing innovative de-

livery models and strategically structuring their law firms to meet the changing legal needs of the market. The participants are asked to provide mentorship to incoming LIFT applicants.

Through special collaborations with nonprofits and legal service programs, selected LIFT attorneys are presented unique opportunities to work onsite in their fields of interest. For example:

▶ Domestic Violence Project. Through a collaboration with the New Orleans Family Justice Center and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, LIFT Fellows receive office space and work with attorneys in family and domestic violence law.

▶ Immigration Project. Central Louisiana Interfaith Immigration Center in Alexandria provides support and mentorship to LIFT Fellows practicing immigration law.

For more information on the program or application procedures, contact LSBA Access to Justice Training and Project Counsel Amy E. Duncan at (504)619-0148 or email amy.duncan@lsba.org. 