Justice Community Conference: Ensuring access to justice, preserving civil legal aid

The 2014 Louisiana Justice Community Conference on Oct. 16-17 in Baton Rouge focused on the theme of “Preserving Civil Legal Aid” in collaboration with the Louisiana Bar Foundation’s statewide campaign to raise funds for civil legal aid and to increase awareness of the growing civil legal needs of the state’s indigent citizens.

Each year, the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) gathers practitioners at the conference both to celebrate their achievements and to provide a forum to strengthen public interest practice. Through plenary sessions, training workshops and special programs, the conference has for more than 10 years provided a wide range of important learning and networking experiences for all attendees.

This year’s conference kicked off with an inspiring keynote address from Judge C. Wendell Manning, president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation, who discussed the impact of civil legal aid on today’s society and the importance of ensuring that these legal services receive the support needed. Other sessions focused on the economic impact of civil legal aid, with presentations from the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the national advocacy group Voices for Justice.

The conference continues to grow, both in terms of attendance and programs offered. This year, 140 attorneys registered for two days of training, networking, meetings and pre-conferences.

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LSBA Member Services

The mission of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is to assist and serve its members in the practice of law. To this end, the LSBA offers many worthwhile programs and services designed to complement your career, the legal profession and the community. In the past several years, the legal profession has experienced many changes. The LSBA has kept up with those changes by maturing in structure and stature and becoming more diverse and competitive. As the premier organization serving Louisiana’s legal profession, the LSBA is working to advance its members’ goals and interests through unparalleled programming and a comprehensive benefits package. Listed below are a few benefits of membership:

Bar Center Services
Louisiana Bar Center
www.lsba.org/GoTo/BarCenter
mike.montamat@lsba.org

Louisiana lawyers are invited to reserve any of the three Bar Center conference rooms for depositions or other meetings. The building is equipped with wireless Internet access as well as desktop computers available at no charge to members. Contact Operations Coordinator Mike Montamat at (504)619-0140 with any questions.

Lawyers’ Assistance Program (LAP)
Lawyers’ Assistance Program
www.louisianalap.com • (866)354-9334
LAP provides confidential assistance to members of the Bar and their families who experience problems with alcohol, drugs, gambling and other addictions, as well as mental health issues. Call 1(866)354-9334 for assistance.

Client Assistance Fund
cgrodkys@lsba.org
This program helps consumers by providing compensation to clients who have been defrauded by their lawyers. For more information, contact Associate Executive Director Cheri Cotogno Grodsky at cgrodkys@lsba.org or (504)619-0107.

LSBA Professional Programs
Department Services

Fastcase
www.lsba.org/fastcase
In 2005, the LSBA launched Fastcase, a free web-based legal research product that provides unlimited access to all state and federal court cases. To access the program, go to www.lsba.org and click on the Fastcase icon. For more information, contact Practice Management Counsel Shawn L. Holahan at shawn.holahan@lsba.org or (504)619-0153.

Lawyer Advertising Filing and Evaluation • rlemmler@lsba.org
This program provides screening of proposed lawyer advertising to confirm compliance with the Supreme Court’s advertising rules. For information/inquiries, contact LSBA Ethics Counsel Richard P. Lemmler, Jr. at rlemmler@lsba.org or (504)619-0144.

For more information, visit www.lsba.org
Attorneys volunteer in all Louisiana parishes for “Lawyers in Libraries” Day of Service

Louisiana pro bono attorneys in all of Louisiana’s 64 parishes provided much-needed legal assistance to the public via local libraries during the Oct. 23 “Lawyers in Libraries” Day of Service program. “Lawyers in Libraries” is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Louisiana State Bar Association’s (LSBA) Access to Justice Department and the Louisiana Library Association which aims to directly connect the public with counsel and make people aware of the resources and options that may be available to them.

The LSBA would like to acknowledge the many LSBA members who volunteered on Oct. 23 at libraries in their communities. More “Lawyers in Libraries” events will be scheduled throughout the year. Attorneys wanting to volunteer their time and talents for future events should email Nicole Louque at Nicole.Louque@lsba.org.

“Lawyers in Libraries” Volunteers

Acadia Parish: Tori Theriot
Allen Parish: Adam Johnson
Ascension Parish: Sara Clarke
Assumption Parish: Hanna Thomas
Avoyelles Parish: Kerry Spruill
Beauregard Parish: John Welborn
Bienville Parish: Jim Hatch
Bossier Parish: Kevin Molloy
Caddo Parish: John Frazier
Calcasieu Parish: Oliver Schrumpf and Shayna Sonnier
Caldwell Parish: Ricky Smith and James Patton
Cameron Parish: Jennifer Jones
Catahoula Parish: Christie Wood and Joey Bothe
Claiborne Parish: Jerry Edwards and Charlie Tabor
Concordia Parish: Amy Duncan and Robert Pearson
DeSoto Parish: Ron Stamps and Britney Green
East Baton Rouge Parish: Luke Morris
East Carroll Parish: Molly McEacharn
East Feliciana Parish: Laura Tamblyn
Evangeline Parish: Jacob Fusilier
Franklin Parish: Emily Shields
Grant Parish: Gwenda Lamb
Iberia Parish: Greg Landry
Iberville Parish: Wendy Ramnarine and Thomas McCormick
Jackson Parish: Angela Smith and Keith Whiddon
Jefferson Parish: Jeremy Epstein, Jacqueline Epstein, Robert Kutcher and Martha Maher
Jefferson Davis Parish: David Marcantel
Lafayette Parish: Blake David, Roya Boustany, Dzwendra Smith, Robert Felder and Stuart Breaux
Lafourche Parish: John Sirois
LaSalle Parish: Walter Dorroh
Lincoln Parish: Paul Lensing
Livingston Parish: Erik Burns
Madison Parish: Edwin Moberley
Morehouse Parish: Jay Mitchell
Natchitoches Parish: Lewis Gladney
Ouachita Parish: Clint Hanchev and Brandon Creekbaum
Pointe Coupee Parish: Don Cazayoux, Lane Ewing, Talya Bergeron and Chad Aguillard
Plaquemines Parish: Elizabeth Meneray
Red River Parish: Nina Coleman and Anu Kakonen
Richland Parish: LaKeisha Johnson and Courtney Franklin
Sabine Parish: Jacob Ruppert
St. Bernard Parish: Lisa Borne
St. Charles Parish: Kelly Blackwell, Pat Talley, Mary Jones, Bryant York and Jeremy Grabill
St. Helena Parish: Sean Brady
St. James Parish: Jamie Campbell
St. John the Baptist Parish: Nghan Gauff, Sammy Accardo, Hon. Thomas F. Daley, Rosalyn Ruffin-Duley and Robert Levenstein
St. Landry Parish: Steven (Buzz) Durio
St. Martin Parish: Travis Broussard
St. Mary Parish: Adolph Curet and Russel Cremaldi
St. Tammany Parish: Tim Garlick
Tangipahoa Parish: Thomas Hogan, Christopher Edwards and Greg Webb
Tensas Parish: Leah Cotten
Terrebonne Parish: John Sirois
Union Parish: Brian Dollar
Vermilion Parish: Burton Guidry
Vernon Parish: Wes Bailey
Washington Parish: Amythist Kearney
Webster Parish: Marcus Patillo
West Baton Rouge Parish: Zachary Wool
West Carroll Parish: Clay Hamilton
West Feliciana Parish: Kevin Hayes
Winn Parish: Retired Judge Leon Emanuel and David Handelman