

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

## “Day of Service” legal programs at parish libraries: 15 parishes need attorney volunteers

Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members are encouraged to volunteer their time and talent by participating in the LSBA’s “Lawyers in Libraries” Day of Service program on Thursday, Oct. 29, being conducted at local libraries statewide.

Attorneys have the option to present “Ask-a-Lawyer” programs or other legal presentations on relevant topics, such as divorce, housing and wills. Attorneys volunteering their services will be matched with a library nearest to their practices.

Events can be scheduled throughout the

year, but the LSBA wants to provide at least one attorney in every parish on the Day of Service. Volunteers are still being sought in 15 parishes: Bossier, Beauregard, Caldwell, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Jackson, La Salle, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Martin, Tensas, Webster and Winn.

Attorneys interested in volunteering their services for the “Lawyers in Libraries” program should respond by Sept. 18; contact LSBA Access to Justice Administrative Assistant Nicole Louque at (504)619-0106 or email [nicole.louque@lsba.org](mailto:nicole.louque@lsba.org).

“The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) is thrilled to be collaborating with the Louisiana State Bar Association and the legal community to provide much needed services to public library patrons,” said Vivian McCain, past president of LLA. “We believe this partnership will enable librarians to answer many legal questions that were previously not possible. We appreciate the dedicated attorneys who have given their time to make this collaboration a reality,” she added.

For more information, go online to: [www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org](http://www.LouisianaLawyersinLibraries.org).

## ATJ program offers free CLE on domestic violence

The Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to Justice (ATJ) Department, in partnership with the Family Justice Center of New Orleans, hosted a free CLE program in August on “Effective Representation of Domestic Violence Victims.” The program was offered to Fellows of the Legal Innovators For Tomorrow (LIFT) legal incubator and accelerator program and civil legal aid attorneys who represent victims of domestic violence.

The CLE, presented by Professor Tania C. Tetlow of Tulane Law School, provided information on everything from best practices in litigating protective orders to ethical considerations for custody cases that involve domestic violence. Kim S. Sport, an attorney who assisted in drafting the new domestic violence laws in 2014 and 2015 that increased protections for domestic violence victims, discussed the new legislation.

Through a partnership with the New Orleans Family Justice Center and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, attorney participants of LIFT receive office space, mentorship and resources to build viable sustainable solo practices that serve critical unmet legal needs. Additionally, the LIFT Fellows agree to provide extensive hours of pro bono



The Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Department, in partnership with the Family Justice Center of New Orleans, hosted a free CLE program in August on “Effective Representation of Domestic Violence Victims.” Participating in the program were, from left, Amy E. Duncan, representing the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Department; Professor Tania C. Tetlow, Tulane Law School; Kim S. Sport, chair of United Way of Southeast Louisiana Public Policy Committee; Mary Claire Landry, executive director of the Family Justice Center; and Erica L. Andrews, a Fellow of the Legal Innovators For Tomorrow legal incubator and accelerator program.

representation to clients in cases involving survivors of domestic violence.

The ATJ Department is working to coordinate future seminars relevant to attorneys and advocates in the justice community. To monitor future events, go to: [www.lsba.org/atj/atjTraining.aspx](http://www.lsba.org/atj/atjTraining.aspx).

## Elder Law Task Force Boot Camp reaches 175 seniors in Thibodaux

The Louisiana Elder Law Task Force provided an extensive “boot camp” program to 175 senior citizens in Thibodaux in July.

The Southeast Louisiana Elder Law Boot Camp, hosted by the Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist Parish Councils on Aging, featured attorney volunteers from organizations across the state discussing topics relevant to seniors.

Betty A. Raglin explained powers of attorney and related documents. Maria Alvarez discussed Social Security and spousal benefits. Linda S. Melancon presented information on the veterans’ aid and attendance pension. Salyria L. Gumms and Krystal L. Talghani warned attendees about senior scams. Lisa R. Pinho outlined the crime of financial exploitation.

Other attorneys participating in the program were Jane Arieux Thomas, moderator on behalf of the Governor’s Office of Elderly Affairs; Marilyn G. Pepper, Carrie H. Paillet and Jonathan M. Rhodes.

The Task Force’s next “boot camp” will be held in Terrebonne Parish. For more information about the event, go to: [www.probono.net/la/civillaw/groups/](http://www.probono.net/la/civillaw/groups/).