

# Focus on *Access to Justice*

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

## LSBA leadership participates in ABA Day 2017 in D.C.

Several members of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) leadership participated in the American Bar Association's (ABA) annual lobbying efforts on April 25-27 — "ABA Day in Washington, DC."

2016-17 LSBA President Darrel J. Papillion led the delegation. Joining him were 2017-18 LSBA President Dona Kay Renegar, former LSBA President David F. Bienvenu, attorney Judy Perry Martinez and LSBA Access to Justice Director Monte T. Mollere.

ABA Day is an opportunity for LSBA leaders and colleagues from around the nation to speak to elected representatives on issues of critical importance to the Bar, clients, the legal profession and the administration of justice.

ABA Day began more than a decade ago to focus on appropriate funding for the Legal Services Corp. (LSC). In a year when the President's budget calls for the elimination of LSC funding, it was important for LSBA leaders to meet with the Louisiana congressional delegation to discuss the critical need to sufficiently fund the LSC and its impact on providing legal services to Louisiana's most needy citizens.

LSC funding makes up approximately 48 percent of the total funding for Louisiana's two largest civil legal aid programs — Acadiana Legal Service Corp. and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

LSBA leaders explained to Louisiana's delegation why funding civil legal aid is a smart investment. A recent Social Return on



Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members participated in the April "ABA Day in Washington, DC," meeting with Louisiana's congressional delegation with concerns about legal services funding. From left, attorney Judy Perry Martinez, 2017-18 LSBA President Dona Kay Renegar, 2016-17 LSBA President Darrel J. Papillion, U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson (R-La.), LSBA Access to Justice Director Monte T. Mollere and former LSBA President David F. Bienvenu.

Investment (SROI) Analysis completed by the Louisiana Bar Foundation for the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission shows that for every \$1 invested in Louisiana's civil legal aid services, the programs deliver \$8.73 in immediate and long-term, consequential financial benefits. Investing in civil legal aid is a powerful way to help people solve critical problems and prevent events that are harmful and expensive for citizens, the leaders said.

Louisiana's network of legal services organizations provides basic civil legal services to help stabilize the lives of those most in need. The organizations do not handle criminal cases. They provide assistance to thousands of individuals

annually (approximately 26,437 in 2016), including help to veterans, domestic violence victims, individuals undergoing foreclosure or other housing issues, those coping with the after-effects of natural disasters, and families involved in child custody disputes.

With the assistance of staff from the Washington, DC, office of Jones Walker LLP, particularly Jones Walker lobbyist (governmental relations personnel) R. Christian Johnsen, the Louisiana delegation met with Senators Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy, Representatives Mike Johnson and Garret Graves, and staff members of Representatives Clay Higgins, Steve Scalise, Ralph Abraham and Cedric Richmond. 📷

## Yes, it is important to report your pro bono hours!

Is it really that important to report pro bono hours? Yes . . . if you want to support your local pro bono and legal services programs. Each year, attorneys provide thousands of hours of pro bono work for those who cannot afford to pay for legal services — and each year thousands of hours go unreported. Some

attorneys say it is self-aggrandizement to report. Others say only the office manager sees the reporting form.

Don't do a disservice to your local pro bono and legal services programs by not reporting. When seeking funding, these organizations are frequently asked, "What are attorneys doing to help?" Help the

Louisiana State Bar Association support your local public interest organizations by providing them information to respond to that question.

Report your hours online at: [www.lsba.org/goto/pbreporting](http://www.lsba.org/goto/pbreporting). 📷

# Louisiana justice community members attend 2017 ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference

Members of the Louisiana justice community, along with Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Access to Justice Department staff members, attended the 2017 American Bar Association/National Legal Aid and Defender Association's Equal Justice Conference in Pittsburgh, Penn., this month.

From criminal defense in a civil forum to legal wellness checkups, the Louisiana civil legal aid community learned innovative and collaborative ways to address the legal needs of all Louisiana citizens.

During the conference, LSBA Access to Justice Projects and Training Counsel Amy E. Duncan presented a program on "Addressing Gaps in Legal Services through Collaborative Legal Incubator Programs." She joined two other incubator directors, Stephanie Everett with Lawyers for Equal Justice, Inc. in Georgia and Len Zandrow with the Justice Bridge at the University of Massachusetts School of Law. The session discussed various models and collaborations to develop legal incubator programs that foster viable and sustainable social-justice-focused solo practices. The LSBA currently operates three collaborative models with an eye towards expansion. To learn more about Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT), go to [www.lsba.org/LIFT](http://www.lsba.org/LIFT). 



Members of the Louisiana justice community attending the 2017 Equal Justice Conference included, from left, Robin Kay, Baton Rouge Bar Association; Sachida R. Raman, Acadiana Legal Services Corp.; Jean A. Hill, 15th Judicial District Court; Elena M. Perez, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services; Amelia Hoppe, Louisiana Civil Justice Center; Rachel Piercey, Yoga Flow & Go, L.L.C.; Christopher P. Coty, The Pro Bono Project; and Amy E. Duncan, Louisiana State Bar Association.



Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice Projects and Training Counsel Amy E. Duncan presented a program on "Addressing Gaps in Legal Services through Collaborative Legal Incubator Programs" at the 2017 Equal Justice Conference.

## ATJ Developing Leadership Internship Program to begin second year

With the success of the first year of the Access to Justice (ATJ) Developing Leadership Internship Program, representatives of the Louisiana State Bar Association (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 are joining forces once again for the second year.

Students who have completed their first year of law school were invited to submit applications for the four available internships. Competition was brisk and one student from each of Louisiana's four law schools was selected to participate. The 2017 class of interns are Leila Abu-Orf, Milton (MJ) Hernandez, Monette Davis and Anais

Moore-Jaccard. Interns are sponsored by law firms. This year's sponsoring law firms are Adams and Reese, L.L.P.; Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C.; Jones Walker LLP; and Phelps Dunbar LLP.

For its second year, the program has been expanded to six weeks and provides a unique opportunity for law students to gain the insight and skills needed to become the next generation of access to justice leaders.

Over the six-week period, interns will work with civil legal aid programs. 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 interviewing clients, attending court hearings and participating in community outreach efforts. Additionally, interns have the opportunity to tour the Louisiana Supreme Court and interact with appellate and trial court judges, both state and federal, who have been actively involved in developing and supporting pro bono and access to justice efforts throughout Louisiana.

The success of the ATJ Developing Leadership Internship Program has encouraged the LSBA's Access to Justice Commission to consider offering additional internships. If your firm is interested in sponsoring an intern for the 2018 program, contact Monte T. Mollere at (800)421-5722, ext. 146 or (504)619-0146 or email [mmollere@lsba.org](mailto:mmollere@lsba.org). 