

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 A.M. Friday, March 22, 2019
Baton Rouge, LA**

Attendance:

Jeffrey Coreil, Co-Chair, Neuner Pate
Dona Renegar, Co-Chair, Veazey Felder & Renegar LLC
Stephanie Beagh, Louisiana Appleseed
Amanda Brown, Louisiana Bar Foundation
Miriam Childs, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Joseph Oelkers III, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette
Sachida Raman, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette
Lisa Stansky, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corp.
Ranie Thompson, CrescentCare Legal Services

LSBA Staff:

Amy Duncan, ATJ Projects and Training Counsel
Linda Johnson, ATJ Technology Counsel
Joanna Laidler, ATJ Projects Counsel
Jordan Maier, ATJ Assistant
Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel
Monte Mollere, ATJ Director

I. Welcome and Introductions – Jeff Coreil and Dona Renegar, Co-Chairs

II. Consent Calendar – As we did not have a quorum, the items on the consent calendar (listed below) were not passed.

- a. Minutes from January 18, 2019 ATJ Committee Meeting
- b. ATJ Commission Committee and Initiatives Reports
 - i. Building Bridges Committee – Laura Tuggle, Chair
 - ii. SRL Committee – Judge Harry Randow, Chair
 - iii. Modest Means Committee – Molly Vigour
 - iv. Technology Committee – Dona Renegar/Amanda Brown
- c. Website Stakeholders Report – Lisa Stansky

III. ATJ Committee Subcommittee and Initiatives Reports

- a. **Pro Bono – action item – Dona Renegar** – ATJ Nominating Committee recommendations of award recipients for the 2019 LSBA Pro Bono Publico & Children’s Law Awards were later ratified by a quorum of members via an online survey. The awards ceremony and reception will be held Tuesday, May 21, at 5:00 PM at the Louisiana Supreme Court.

- b. **ATJ Grant Awards** – *action item* – **Jeffery Coreil** – This year, SLLS requested a grant renewal of \$22,000 to support their Flood Proof disaster relief program. They plan to revise the Flood Proof app to be used statewide and not just during emergencies. The revisions are scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2019. Additionally, the first group of Flood Proof incubator attorneys are scheduled to start April 1, 2019. The grant request was later approved via an online survey.

There was no competition for the remaining \$28,000. Monte Mollere will follow up with the Louisiana Bar Foundation regarding what should be done with these remaining funds.

- c. **IFP Subcommittee** - *information item* – **Jeff Coreil** – Since our last meeting, the subcommittee met several times and added new members to the committee. They have collected data on reasons for inconsistent application of IFP across the state. Additionally, Jeff Coreil will speak at the Clerks of Court in August.

Additionally, the subcommittee would like to ask the Louisiana Law Institute to investigate the current IFP statutes and their application in Louisiana and surrounding states. To this end, they are asking provider organizations provide relevant examples of misapplication of IFP statutes. Appleseed has agreed to find volunteers to provide a legal analysis and identify local rules that are inconsistent with the case law/statutes. Stephanie noted that William B. Gaudet at Adams and Reese is connected to the Louisiana Law Institute and has already begun researching the issues the subcommittee had forwarded to him.

Linda reported that the Clerk of Courts legislative audit reports did not reveal much regarding IFP.

- d. **Disaster Response Subcommittee** - *information item* – **Ann Gregorie/Rachael Mills** – The updated disaster response plan has been finalized. The largest change in the plan adjusts how the hotline would work after a disaster: rather than providing the caller with legal advice, the hotline would direct the caller to appropriate local services. The hotline is retained at the same number previously used by the Louisiana Civil Justice Center – 1-800-310-7029. The subcommittee is currently working on expanding features of the hotline and testing its transfer from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

It was noted that the three-year mark to do a disaster drill is approaching; however, the phone transfer needs to be tested first before a drill can be run.

- e. **Louisiana Justice Community Conference** – *information item* – **Amy Duncan** – The Louisiana Justice Community Conference will be held October 10-11 at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge. It will provide 9 hours CLE credit in total, including poverty law-related training. In addition to the regular conference, CINC will have a pre-conference. Amy requested that any proposals for trainings be submitted through www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019LJCC.

- f. **Louisiana Library Association Conference** – *information item* – **Rachael Mills, Joanna Laidler, Miriam Childs** – Joanna, Rachael, Miriam, and Sara Pic attended the Louisiana

Library Association Conference and presented a training for public librarians regarding how to connect their patrons with available legal resources, such as LA.FreeLegalAnswers, Modest Means, and other bar programs.

IV. Access to Justice Commission Reports

- a. **Funding Committee** – *information item* – **Jeff Coreil/Monte Mollere** – One of the funding committee’s goals is to secure a state budget line item of \$500,000 for civil legal aid (this is reduced from their initial goal of \$1 million). To this end, the committee formed a communications group to engage the media and improve awareness of the need for civil legal aid. The communications group worked with journalist Richard A. Webster to produce an article for the Times Picayune titled “In Louisiana civil courts, the poor are left to defend themselves.” The Times Picayune also printed a supportive op-ed titled “If Mississippi can pay for civil legal aid, so can Louisiana,” and Senator Beth Mizell wrote a guest op-ed titled “Funding civil legal aid gives Louisiana residents a lifeline.” These articles were reprinted by other papers, including those out-of-state, further gaining traction for the goal of funding civil legal aid.

Additionally, ABA day will occur April 9-10. As funding the Legal Services Corporation is the main issues for ABA Day, participants will be armed with data from the Economic Impact Study updated for 2018, which shows that the long-term return on investment for civil legal aid in Louisiana is \$9.13 (up from \$8.64 in 2016).

At the state level, Louisiana Appleseed will be hosting a legislative breakfast on April 17, and the Access to Justice staff will host Civil Legal Aid Day at the capital on May 1, where they will provide information on the subject to both state legislators and the public.

Finally, the committee hopes to add legislators to the ATJ Commission, and is open to recommendations for contacts (including less obvious champions of access to justice). If you know a legislator who may be interested, reach out to Jeff Coreil at jcoreil@neunerpate.com.

- b. **ATJ Leadership Internship Project** – *information item* - **Rachael Mills** – Rachael Mills reported that Entergy graciously agreed to be the fourth sponsor of the ATJ Leadership Internship, alongside Adams and Reese, Baker Donelson, and Phelps Dunbar. The sponsors provide a \$3,000 stipend for law students to work with civil legal aid providers for six weeks. The recipients of this year’s internship have been chosen and will start May 13.

V. Justice Community Conversations – Joanna Laidler reported that the LSBA CLE Department has provided 30% off vouchers for full-day in-state CLE events. Those who are interested in claiming one should contact her at joanna.laidler@lsba.org.

VI. Adjournment – final meeting of the year. 2019-2020 Bar Year schedule TBD.