

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
10:00 A.M. ★ Friday, September 21, 2018
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Jeffrey Coreil, Co-Chair, Nenuer Pate
Dona Renegar, Co-Chair, Veazey Felder & Renegar LLC
Stephanie Beagh, Louisiana Appleseed
Teri Black, Assistant Parish Attorney for Jefferson Parish
Natalie Blackman, Attorney at Law
Danielle Borel, Louisiana's ABA YLD Disaster Liaison
Richard Leefe, Leefe, Gibbs, Sullivan & Dupré, LLC
Kathleen Legendre, The Pro Bono Project
LaWanda Gibson, Acadiana Legal Services Corp., Lake Charles
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Luz Molina, Loyola University College of Law
Joe Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette
Elena Perez, Southeast La Legal Services
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Sachida Raman, Acadiana Legal Services Corp., Lafayette
Graham Ryan, Jones Walker LLP
Lisa Stansky, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.
Jane Thomas, Attorney at Law
Rainie Thompson, Crescent Care
Laura Tuggle, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.

Staff:

Monte Mollere, ATJ Director
Linda Johnson, ATJ Technology Counsel
Rachael Mills, ATJ Project Counsel
Michael Schachtman, ATJ SRL Counsel
Joanna Laidler, ATJ Assistant

Guest:

Amanda Brown, LBF Legal Technology
Consultant
Amanda Hass, Attorney at Law, Legal Needs
Study Consultant

I. Welcome & Introductions

Co-chair Jeff Coreil welcomed the Committee members and self-introductions were made.

II. Consent Calendar – Committee passed unanimous motion to approve all the items in the Consent Calendar. Committee members were asked to advise ATJ staff if they are interested in serving on ATJ Committee Subcommittees or ATJ Commission Committees.

The **Statewide Website Report** had been omitted from the Consent Calendar, but was provided online immediately prior to the meeting. Lisa Stansky provided the following in a verbal report.

SLLS have two new Technology Initiative Grants. The first is to revamp, refresh, and overhaul LouisianaLawHelp.org and will help streamline the site to make it more mobile friendly. The second grant is to develop automated forms and Library-friendly Guides (Lib-Guides) for basic consumer debt and family law forms. Lisa Stansky and SLLS are asking for feedback from

their community partners. Please contact Lisa Stansky directly with feedback, or input may be provided through a survey located at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MZPKV>

III. ATJ Subcommittee and Initiatives Reports

(a) Disaster Response Subcommittee – Ann Gregorie

The Subcommittee have met several times and is still in the process of finalizing the new disaster plan. The Subcommittee needs to make changes to address the closure of LCJC and to update the intake and distribution processes. Danielle Borel connected with ABA YLD to discuss the best platforms to use in the event of disaster. The Subcommittee also reached out to states affected by Hurricane Florence offering help with disaster preparation, or with resources afterwards. The Subcommittee has been working with strong disaster programs across the country to determine how they implement their plans in instances where they don't have dedicated, funded social justice entities.

Rachael Mills stated that as part of the disaster plan, a listserv has been created and is available on Pro Bono Net. The Subcommittee are asking Legal Aid and public interest attorneys across the state to register for the listserv so that people can communicate in the event of a disaster. She will send a follow up email with instructions.

(b) Gap Assessment Subcommittee – Luz Molina

This Subcommittee has worked hard over the last year to produce a report that makes a difference to how we assess unmet civil legal need in Louisiana. This information has not yet been available in this state, although other states have produced reports on this issue. The Committee initially commissioned a Professor in Lafayette to run the survey and provide the results. Upon receipt of the draft report, the Subcommittee decided that the report required additional background information to provide context to the results. Luz Molina, Amanda Hass, Linda Johnson, Monte Mollere and ATJ staff have been working to finalize report, which should be ready in 2-3 weeks.

(c) Pro Bono Subcommittee

- (i) Lawyers in Libraries – Michael Schachtman – The Pro-Bono week of service is being held this year October 22-27. Included in the meeting materials is the Proclamation from the Governor declaring the week to be Pro Bono Week. Volunteers for some parishes (Caldwell, Catahoula, Franklin, La Salle, Madison, West Carroll, Assumption, West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, and Washington). LSBA are hopeful that this year will be the biggest event ever, as we have confirmed more events earlier and are partnering with Judicial staff and non-legal community organizations. The LSBA have designed a state-wide press release and template document that can be customized for specific events and parishes. LSBA is looking for help from Committee members in finding attorneys and promoting events locally, so please contact Michael Schachtman if you have local contacts.

(d) IFP Subcommittee – Jeff Coreil

As discussion of litigation and challenges to current statutory law arose, it was suggested that some of the work of the Access to Justice Commission's IFP Committee be transferred to an Access to Justice Committee Subcommittee as conflicts of interest could arise for Judicial members of the IFP Committee. Jeff Coreil, who volunteered to chair the newly established IFP Subcommittee, wants to approach the issue diplomatically to try to initially work co-operatively with the Clerks and Courts. Sachida Raman offered his assistance to the IFP Subcommittee. Members of the former committee were interested in referring Code articles on

IFP to the Law Institute. Michael Schachtman recommended a [pamphlet on IFP](#) published by LSBA, produced from a Whitepaper by Louisiana Appleseed.

Motion passed unanimously to develop IFP Subcommittee with Jeff Coreil as the Chair. Jeff Coreil asked interested people to email himself or LSBA staff. Committee intends to have short list of objectives to propose to Committee at the next meeting.

(e) Louisiana Justice Community Conference – Rachael Mills

Rachael Mills noted that agendas for the Conference, CINC Pre-Conference, and Bar Foundation Grantee Training on the Case Management System (PRIME) are included in the materials. She reminded Committee Members that the conference is at capacity, and advised attorneys to contact herself or Joanna Laidler if they wanted to attend. Luz Molina suggested that conference sessions could be recorded for people unable to attend the Conference. Rachael Mills noted that she did not think the LSBA had the budget to record sessions at this year's Conference, but would research costs for next year.

(f) FreeLegalAnswers.com – Rachael Mills

Rachael Mills noted that it is the two year anniversary of FreeLegalAnswers.com, an online platform hosted by the ABA and administered by the LSBA. Two separate reports are included in the meeting materials. One notes that as of September 6, 2018, people had asked 726 questions on the site and 631 had been answered by attorneys. This was a completion rate of 87%, which is higher than the national average of 70%. The second report provided further detail about the types of questions asked. The questions asked on the Louisiana platform are consistent with national trends, as half the questions asked are family law. For this reason, FreeLegalAnswers.com is always looking for additional volunteers with family law experience. LSBA also encourages legal service providers to direct ineligible clients on the website as it has slightly higher income eligibility (e.g. 250% of FPL). Please direct any questions regarding the site or registration to Rachael Mills.

(g) Louisiana Civil Legal Navigator Project – Amanda Brown

Jeff Coreil mentioned that the Access to Justice Commission had created a new Technology Committee chaired by Dona Renegar, which will work closely with Amanda Brown on the Civil Legal Navigator Project (Navigator Project). Amanda Brown provided a presentation on the Navigator Project. Its purpose is to build a one-stop shop for all legal and community and social information and resources for issues affecting low income and marginalized communities. The Navigator Project uses artificial intelligence to guide people to appropriate resources for their legal issues based on their responses to pre-programmed questions. The Navigator Project will also be able to direct people to a repository of available resources. The goal is to make it easier for members of the public to obtain assistance for civil legal issues.

Pilot projects in Alaska and Hawaii are already under way and Lisa Stansky directed people to visit [\[https://www.lawhelp.org/hi/portal/\]](https://www.lawhelp.org/hi/portal/) to view online demonstration of the Navigator Project. Amanda explained that once the technology platforms are finalized, LSC will be ready to take proposals from other states for onboarding. The Navigator Project is looking for assistance from attorneys to help create question and answer flows and will host workshops with attorneys to build content. The Navigator Project will incorporate tools and intake sheets currently available from legal aid providers to try to create a curated experience for end users. The Navigator Project is going to start with the legal issue of Divorce and will consider adding other areas of law, based on data from unmet needs survey, and case data.

Luz Molina asked about whether there were accommodations for literacy. Amanda Brown explained that the Navigator Project had inbuilt translation functions. She also indicated that

one of the goals of the Project was to make all content accessible for people with a 5th grade literacy level, including providing educational features to explain legal terms.

Jeff Coreil asked about whether the Navigator Project could have a disaster component. Jeff suggested that LSC might be able to obtain funding and grants from FEMA to create a disaster relief tool, and that Louisiana could be at the forefront of technological innovation in this regard. Amanda Brown noted that Pro Bono Net has a robust platform for people looking for disaster resources, although it is currently undergoing a redesign.

IV. Justice Community Conversation

(a) Louisiana Immigration Working Group – Michael Schachtman

The Louisiana Immigration Work group is comprised of a number of organizations serving immigrants and also representatives from the Executive Office of Immigration Review and asylum officers. The group is currently chaired by Justice Zainey. Another group called the Gulf Coast Advocate Group has been created specifically for advocate groups and will look to litigation down the line. If you have questions for either of the groups, please direct them to Michael Schachtman.

V. Access to Justice Commission Reports

(a) Funding Committee – Dona Renegar

The Funding Committee has made numerous efforts to bring this issue adequate funding (and the lack of state funding) to the Governor's office and to the legislature. Louisiana is now one of only three states that receives no civil legal aid appropriation or dedicated fee from the state legislature. This year, the Committee scheduled a day in Baton Rouge event and visited with Jay Dardenne, Senator Luneau, and Eric LaFleur. Most recently, the Committee met with Matthew Block and Jay Dardenne on August 28, 2018. The Committee believes that there is hope for the future of state funding. Jeff Coreil noted that the Economic Impact Study was a valuable tool at a state and federal level and that the LBF was currently in the process of updating the study.

(b) Self-Represented Litigant Service Provider – Michael Schachtman

The Second SRL Summit is being held in Natchitoches on November 2, 2018. It is second SRL summit this year and the primary audience is Court staff. Michael Schachtman and Rachel Mills attended the Clerk of Courts Institute and found the Clerks to be very receptive to the resources currently available for the Courts. Michael Schachtman thanked Sachida Raman for his assistance in organizing the first Summit.