

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 A.M. ★ Thursday, April 5, 2018
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Terri Anderson-Scott, Acadiana Legal Services Corp., Shreveport
Stephanie Beagh, Louisiana Appleseed
Jeffrey Coreil, Co-Chair, Nenuer Pate
Laura Fine, Lehmann Norman & Marcus, LLC
Samuel Ford, Varadi, Hair, & Checki, LLC
LaWanda Gibson, Acadiana Legal Services Corp., Lake Charles
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Christine Lipsey, McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC
Luz Molina, Loyola University College of Law
Joe Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Jonathan Rhodes, Louisiana Civil Justice Center
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.
Sharonda Williams, Fishman Haygood Phelps Willis & Swanson, LLP

Staff:

Monte Mollere, ATJ Director
Amy Duncan, ATJ Training Counsel
Rachael Mills, ATJ Project Counsel
Michael Schachtman, ATJ SRL Counsel

Guest:

C. C. Kahr, The Pro Bono Project
J. Reed Poole Jr., LSBA Leadership Class
Chris Ralston, Phelps Dunbar, LLP
Kimberley Silas, Supreme Court of Louisiana
Lykisha Vaughn, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.
Arielle Young, LSBA Leadership Class

I. Welcome & Introductions

Co-chair Jeff Coreil welcomed the Committee and everyone introduced themselves.

II. Consent Calendar

- (e) **Access to Justice Commission Committee Reports**– The work of the Access to Justice Commission Committees is a driving force for ATJ in Louisiana.

(i) *Building Bridges Committee – Amy Duncan*

Amy Duncan had arranged a meeting for members of the Committee with the Office of Motor Vehicles ('OMV') and the Department of Corrections on March 1, 2018 to discuss Louisiana Revised Statute 32.415.3 (Provisional Driver's Licenses) The discussion was productive and OMV agreed to update their current policies and procedures. Participants discussed two possible legislative amendments to correct and facilitate obtaining the licenses.

III. ATJ Subcommittee and Staff Reports

(a) Pro Bono Subcommittee

(i) Pro Bono Summit – Rachael Mills

The Pro Bono Summit has been rescheduled to Tuesday May 22, 2018 at the Supreme Court Building in New Orleans. The summit will be held in conjunction with the Pro Bono Awards. The summit will be held from 10am to 4pm and the Pro Bono Awards will begin at 5pm. A new Agenda is still being finalized because some of the previously confirmed speakers are unavailable on the new date. The Agenda will be circulated to Committee members once finalized.

(ii) LSBA Pro Bono and Children's Law Awards– Monte Mollere

The nominating committee made recommendations regarding the ATJ Award recipients to the Board of Governors. Because of the timing, the Board of Governors has already met and approved the list of award recipients. Monte Mollere introduced a motion to allow the Committee to ratify the actions of the nominating committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Monte Mollere stated that he was happy to speak with Committee members/nominators about the process for award nominations and selection.

(b) ATJ Grant Awards – Jeffery Coreil

The ATJ Committee is able to recommend the distribution of up to \$50,000 in grants from the Louisiana Bar Foundation's Access to Justice Fund, which comprises of donations made to the fund annually. The Committee has requested applications from appropriate entities and will review the three grant applications in order to make recommendation to the LBF. The three applications are:

Louisiana Civil Justice Center – Jonathan Rhodes

Louisiana Civil Justice Center is a statewide legal service program whose focus is disaster relief services. Their application requests \$20,000 to support a statewide disaster preparedness program to help low-income and vulnerable communities prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters, including direct legal services, advocacy, and client intake. The program would focus on outreach to the rural parishes. The grant would cover staff salaries and program expenses.

Pro Bono Project – C. C. Kahr

The Pro Bono Project provides free civil legal services to underserved members of the community by engaging volunteer attorneys. Their application requests \$10,000 to invest in computer hardware and technology infrastructure for disaster response. The grant would provide laptops for the Pro Bono Project staff, allowing them to work remotely. It would also provide funds to purchase a server to enable secure, encrypted back-up of files retrievable from any location.

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services – Laura Tuggle

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services is requesting \$30,000 to fund their Disaster Innovation Project, which would support the Flood Proof Project. \$20,000 would be used to provide onsite training, supervision, mentoring, case placement, and a stipend for two incubator attorneys in relation to complex disaster work. \$10,000 would be used to modify and update the Flood Proof app and web-based platform to make it usable statewide and to add a disaster resiliency component.

After considerable discussion of the three applications, Jeffery Coreil recommended the allocation of funds as follows – Louisiana Civil Justice Center be allocated \$20,000, the Pro Bono Project be allocated \$5,000, and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services be allocated \$25,000. The motion was introduced, seconded and passed by the Committee. Chris Ralston and Sharonda Williams abstained from voting.

(c) **ATJ Gap Assessment Subcommittee – Luz Molina**

The Subcommittee is working on the third draft of the Legal Needs Report. It will be a comprehensive report, which will include a comparison between national and Louisiana legal needs. The Report will, also consider what resources are available to capture unmet legal needs. The completed draft should be ready in one or two months.

(d) **Triage and Continuum Projects**

(i) *LSBA Website Project – Michael Schachtman*

The ‘Find Legal Help’ portal consolidates all the information available in one location and provides numerous resources to help individuals with varied legal needs. The page is an access point from which individuals can locate the most appropriate legal option available – ranging from help locating an attorney, to modest means options, to pro bono and legal service options, to available forms. Domestic forms are now available for every jurisdiction in the State. The LSBA has provided the details of every parish library on the website and is working with the librarians to provide additional related community services.

(ii) *Modest Means Directory – Amy Duncan*

Amy Duncan provided a demonstration to Committee members on how to access and use the modest means directory. Participating attorneys are required to undergo relevant CLE training before they can register. The training is currently being offered free of charge to encourage participation. Committee members will be able to instruct the public and their staff members on how the directory works and can encourage attorneys to participate in the directory. Discussion about promoting the directory on probono.net/la and at Universities.

(e) **Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Appointment – Monte Mollere**

Monte Mollere received notice from the Governor’s office that the ATJ Committee had an appointment to its Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. This was in addition to the LSBA representative. The Council looks at varied issues relating to children. Eddie McAuliffe, who represented “the LSBA” recommended the ATJ Committee representative be someone with prior family law experience. Monte Mollere recommended that Talya Bergeron from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services be appointed. The ATJ Committee approved the recommendation. Ms Bergeron’s appointment must be approved by the LSBA Board. Talya will keep the Committee updated on the issues raised by the Council.

IV. Justice Community Conversation

Status of the Legal Services Corporation Funding - Joe Oelkers

Prior to the announcement that the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) would receive an extra \$25 million for 2018, the Lafayette Bar Commission considered the status of LSC funding. The Bar Commission Board unanimously adopted a resolution to come up with a policy statement to endorse adequate funding for the LSC in the future. Monte Mollere provided a brief explanation about the status of the State Bar Association's position in relation to LSC funding. Currently, the State Bar Association has a standing resolution to promote and support funding for civil legal aid. Joe Oelkers, Jeff Coreil and Monte Mollere agreed to meet to discuss future steps.

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services has moved – Laura Tuggle

SLLS have moved. They are now located at 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 600. SLLS will host an Open House celebrating their new address on May 17, 2018.

V. Access to Justice Commission Items

(a) Funding Committee- Chris Ralston

The Funding Committee was pleased by the increase in civil legal aid funding to \$410 million for 2018, despite the President's proposal to eliminate LSC funding. Additionally, two federal interest rate increases will lead to increases in the IOLTA funding, which will then be distributed to various providers. Chris Ralston reported that, with the help of the Bar Foundation and Louisiana Appleseed, a lobbying firm has been engaged to help canvas support for the reintroduction of a State Appropriation for civil legal aid.

(b) Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows – Monte Mollere

Mark Surprenant asked the ATJ Commission to recommend that this pilot program, be continued and adopted as an ongoing project of the LSBA. Program partners experienced bar members with public interest organizations, requiring a commitment of 20 hours per month for one year. Current individuals and organizations are – Sarah Campbell and Acadiana Legal Services; Tom Gibbs and Baton Rouge Family Court (SRL); Judy Perry Martinez and SLLS (Flood Proof); Valerie Schexnayder and the Baton Rouge Bar Association (Veterans Project); and Hugh Straub and The Pro Bono Project (Self-Help Desk). Participating legal service providers reported that the pilot program has been successful.

(c) ATJ Leadership Internship Project

Rachael Mills provided an update of the third year of the internship program. Four students, one from each of Louisiana's law schools were graciously sponsored by law firms Adams and Reese, L.L.P., Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C., Jones Walker LLP, and Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.. The interns are sponsored by the firms but will spend the majority of their time with civil legal aid providers and judges. The program runs for six weeks from May 14, 2018 until June 22, 2018. There will be an article about the previous interns in an upcoming issue of the Bar Journal.