



**Joint Meeting of the
Louisiana Access to Justice Commission and
Louisiana Access to Justice Committee
10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2025**

MEETING MINUTES

Commission Attendees:

- Hon. John Weimer III, ATJ Commission Co-Chair, Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Thibodeaux
- Alainna Mire, ATJ Commission Co-Chair, LSBA Past President, Alexandria
- Larry Centola, Martzell, Bickford & Centola, New Orleans
- Carrie Jones, LSBA Board of Governors, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP, Baton Rouge
- Christy Kane, Pro Bono Counsel, Entergy Corporation, New Orleans
- Hon. Patricia Koch, Judge 9th Judicial District Court, Alexandria
- Paula Miles, LBF Board, Office of the Public Defenders, Baton Rouge
- Prof. Luz Molina, Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans
- Chris Ralston, Phelps Dunbar, LLP, New Orleans
- Sachida Raman, Executive Director, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation, Lafayette
- Valerie Schexnayder, LSBA Secretary, Schexnayder Mediation Services, Baton Rouge
- Veronica Sizer, Executive Counsel, GOHSEP, Baton Rouge
- Tina Suggs, LSBA Board of Governors, Frederick A Miller & Associates, Metairie
- Laura Tuggle, Executive Director, Southeast Louisiana Services Corporation, New Orleans
- Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White,
- Justin Woods, Clerk of Court, 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans

Committee Attendees:

- Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White, ATJ Committee Chair, Retired Judge 19th Judicial District Court, Baton Rouge
- Roxanne Newman, Vice-Chair, Deputy Director, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Hammond
- Talya Bergeron, Directing Attorney, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Baton Rouge
- Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, LA Dept. of Health, Baton Rouge
- Alex J. Domingue, Mouldedoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett, Metairie
- Ann K. Gregorie, Executive Director, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Baton Rouge
- Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Managing Attorney, Acadiana Legal Service Corp, Lafayette
- Amanda Huff Brown, Executive Director, Lagniappe Law Lab, New Orleans
- Gregory L. Landry, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette
- Kathleen Legendre, Zara Zeringue, LLC, Mandeville
- Prof. Luz Molina, Professor, Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans
- Camille Patti, Attorney at Law, New Orleans
- Prof. Richard Pittman, Professor, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge
- Sara Pixon, Head of Public Services, Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans
- Taylor M. Robinson, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette



- Maggie Trahan Simar, Hearing Officer 16th JDC Family Court Hearing, St. Martinville
- Jane Thomas, Attorney at Law, Baton Rouge
- Ranie Thompson, Executive Director, Disability Rights Louisiana, New Orleans
- Josef Ventulan, Louisiana State Law Institute, Baton Rouge
- Adrienne Wheeler, Executive Director, Louisiana Appleseed, New Orleans

Guests:

- Rachel Brumfield, Leadership Class
- Tamiko Chatman, Deputy Director, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette
- Katelyn Courville, Leadership Class
- Sarah Day, Leadership Class
- Catherine Filippi, Leadership Class
- Fernando Grider, Jr., Leadership Class
- Trey Hightower, Leadership Class
- Hailey Manint, Leadership Class
- Hon. Patricia Oppenheim, Judge 22nd Judicial District Court, Covington
- Hon. Susan Theall, Judge 15th Judicial District Court, Lafayette

LSBA Staff:

- Stephanie Beaugh, ATJ Projects Counsel
- Rebecca Collins, ATJ Projects Counsel
- Amy Duncan, ATJ Training & Projects Counsel
- Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel
- Monte Mollere, ATJ Director

I. Welcome and Introduction

Chief Justice Weimer welcomed everybody along with Commission Co-Chair Alainna Mire and ATJ Committee Chair Judge Woodruff White. New attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

II. Consent Calendar

Adoption of the Consent Calendar was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

III. Louisiana Bar Foundation Report – Paula Miles reported that The Louisiana Bar Foundation’s 39th Annual Fellows Gala will be held on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Four Seasons Hotel in New Orleans. The ATJ Grant Application deadline is February 27, 2025. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for statewide technology, intake coordination, and disaster response projects. Paula reported on the continued success of the Justice for All (JFA) Project, particularly with outreach to rural communities. The project remains committed to ensuring equal access to legal resources in underserved areas.

IV. Access to Justice Commission Issues and Initiatives

- a. Accessibility Committee** – Luz Molina reported that the Accessibility Committee continues to work to improve interpreter qualifications and expand the interpreter pool. The committee is also developing a judicial bench book addressing accessibility issues, including mental health and competency topics, and planning to produce an annual or biannual report alongside CLE programming on accessibility.



- b. **Self Represented Litigants Committee** – Judge Oppenheim and Judge Woodruff - White reported that the committee is exploring the adoption of Safe Harbor rules to clarify permissible non-lawyer assistance for SRLs.
- c. **Technology Updates** - Amanda Brown, Adrienne Wheeler and Laura Tuggle reported on the introduction of a new will-generator. They provided an overview of the redesigned legal navigator platform and presented progress on the TIG project, which aims to develop screening tools and improve referral processes
- d. **IFP Working Group** – Judge Lisa Woodruff-White reported that the IFP Working Group continues to work on issues seen throughout the state with IFP filings. The working group plans to participate in a training at the Spring Judge’s Conference about IFP, making judicial outreach and education one of their top priorities. In addition, the group is looking to update educational materials on IFPs.
- e. **Community Outreach and Education Committee** – Judge Susan Theall and Judge Patricia Koch reported on a successful training session for court personnel focused on navigating civil legal resources. Plans are underway for a follow-up training session to explore the legal navigator tool in greater depth. They discussed a court navigator project would have the 9th Judicial District Court host a court navigator as part of a national grant initiative. This effort aims to provide more in-person guidance for individuals navigating the court system without legal representation.

V. Access to Justice Committee Issues and Initiatives

a. Pro Bono

- i. **25 Hours in 2025 Campaign** -Rachael Mills announced that The Pro Bono Committee launched the “25 Hours in 2025” pro bono campaign, encouraging attorneys to contribute at least 25 hours of pro bono work throughout the year.
- ii. **Pro Bono Awards** – Monte Mollere reported on the Pro Bono Awards Ceremony being held May 20, 2025, at the Supreme Court.
- iii. **Justice on the Geaux** – Tamiko Chatman, Sachida Raman and Rachael Mills announced the Justice on the Geaux Initiative, a collaboration between ALSC, LSBA, and ATJ staff designed to deliver legal services and educational programming to rural areas through the Justice for All Access Points. The tour will be held January 27 – 31, 2025. This initiative aims to bridge the gap in legal access for communities that are often overlooked.
- iv. **Law Talks** – Stephanie Beagh reported that the Law Talks Program has expanded from quarterly to monthly legal presentations due to increased demand. The program now includes virtual presentations via Zoom, with in-person watch parties hosted at libraries and other community locations, and a call was made for a volunteer to present on adoption filing.



- b. **ATJ Grant Applications** – Monte Mollere explained the grant process and encouraged organizations to apply.

VI. Meeting Adjournment A motion to adjourn, was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: March 14, 2025 for the ATJ Committee at the LSBA
May 23, 2025 for the ATJ Commission at the LSBA