

LSBA Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee  
Friday, November 8, 2019  
New Orleans, LA

**Participants:**

Garret DeReus, Bizer & DeReus, LLC  
Lauren Godshall, Morris Bart, LLC (co-chair)  
Sean Morrison, Attorney at Law  
Elena Perez, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (co-chair)  
Steven Reed, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services  
Gwender Sterling, Attorney at Law  
Dayna Ryan, Theus, Grisham, Davis & Leigh, LLC  
Debra Weinberg, The Advocacy Center

**Guests:**

Jessica Sawyer, Tulane Law School  
Buddy Stockwell, JLAP

**ATJ Staff:**

Joanna Laidler, Projects Counsel

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Minutes from August 23, 2019 were accepted and approved by the Committee.

**2. JLAP Presentation – Buddy Stockwell**

- JLAP stands for Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program
- Full-service and comprehensive mental health and wellness assistance program with full-time professional clinical staff members. JLAP provides direct and confidential assistance for all mental health issues that members of the legal profession may encounter. JLAP also assists family members and colleagues of attorneys.
- 2016 ABA National study on Lawyer Mental Health = 20-21% of alcoholism and addiction; 30% depression rate; 30% alcoholism and addiction for young lawyers.
- For Confidential assistance Call (985) 778-0571 or visit <http://louisianajlap.com/>.
- JLAP can provide presentations for organizations e.g. professional duty of self-care, which includes compassion fatigue. LSPD Committee to consider hosting CLE on compassion fatigue for public interest attorneys.

**3. Disability Law CLE - Friday November 22, 2019 from 10am-2pm in the Eastern District of Louisiana Federal Court (500 Poydras).**

- Moderator update: United States Magistrate Judge Dana Douglas has agreed to introduce CLE in the morning.
- Presenter update: Sean Morrison and Christopher Sherwood have met to discuss CLE.
- Materials: Presenters to provide Joanna with materials by Friday November 15, 2019. Joanna to speak to presenters about sharing materials with participants. Committee

- needs to ensure that PDF materials are accessible for screen readers & offer to provide materials in a different format for people with disabilities.
- Registration: Currently, 42 people are registered, including 6 committee members.
  - Recording: The Court does not have recording facilities available. Steven Reed suggested using microphone to record audio, which can then be matched with slides.
  - Promotion: Agenda and registration details will be sent out to the Federal Bar next week. Please send it to other groups. Law students will need to contact Joanna to register separately.

#### 4. Reports

- a) Special Education CLE** –LSPD Committee & Southern University Law Center hosted CLE on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9am-1pm. Event was successful, and audience enjoyed having multiple viewpoints on the panel. There were more attorneys in attendance and less members of the public than the last CLE. There were approximately 35-40 people in attendance.
- b) Interview Skills Training** – Interview skills training took place on September 18, 2019 . Feedback from participating students was positive e.g. students felt that they had not ‘received that training anywhere else’. Looking to provide this training at other law schools and/or new attorneys. At upcoming events, the Committee should consider getting clinical instructors more involved next time to ensure that they provide clinical credits and providing students with certification.
- c) LSBA Mid-Year Meeting CLE** – Dayna Ryan agreed to present LSPD CLE at Mid-Year meeting on Thursday January 16, 2020 from 9am-10am as she will already be attending as a House of Delegates member.

#### 5. Other Business

- a) TEFRA** – Signed into law by Governor. Allows children who, would otherwise be institutionalized, to receive Medicaid, even if their parents’ income would otherwise disqualify the children. Will come into effect in 2020.
- b) Class-action Lawsuit** – SPLC, Advocacy Center and others have filed class action lawsuit against Louisiana Department of Health regarding the lack of accessibility of mental health services for Medicaid-eligible youth under 21.

#### 6. Adjournment – Next Meeting on March 13, 2019