



ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 22, 2019 ★ New Orleans, LA

Attendance:

Jeff Coreil, Neuner Pate, Co- Chair
Brandi Cole, Centurylink, Inc.
Christy Kane, Entergy Services, LLC
Greg Landry, Acadiana Legal Services Corp.
Virginia Listach, Southern University Law Center
Alainna Mire, Alexandria City Attorney's Office
Chris Ralston, Louisiana Bar Foundation Board, Phelps Dunbar, LLP
Dona Kay Renegar, Veazey Felder & Renegar, L.L.C.
Valerie Schexnayder, Mickey S. deLaup, APLC, LSBA Board of Governors
Shayna Sonnier, Hunter, Hunter, & Sonnier, L.L.C., LSBA Board of Governors
Mark Surprenant, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corp. Board of Directors, Adams and Reese
Sandra Vujnovich, Louisiana Supreme Court

Guests:

Donna Cuneo, Louisiana Bar Foundation
Amanda Brown, Lagniappe Law Lab
Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Foundation
C.C. Kahr, New Orleans Pro Bono Project

Staff:

Amy Duncan, ATJ Training & Project Counsel
Linda Johnson, ATJ Technology Counsel
Joanna Laidler, ATJ Projects Counsel
Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel
Jordan Maier, ATJ Assistant (remote)
Monte Mollere, ATJ Director

- I. **Welcome and Introductions – Jeffrey Coreil, Co-chair**
Co-chair Jeff Coreil welcomed the returning members, new members, and guests. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Consent Calendar** – Items on the consent calendar were approved.
- III. **Louisiana Bar Foundation Report** – Chris Ralston reported that the Louisiana Bar Foundation awarded \$5 million in IOLTA funds for the 2019-20 fiscal year. LBF provided funding to establish the Louisiana Lagniappe Law Lab, an organization which aims to maximize the effectiveness of the civil legal aid community through the use of technology. Additionally, LBF continued its funding of Louisiana Appleseed to support their mission of increasing access to justice through policy change.

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IV. Access to Justice Projects, Issues, & Initiatives

- a. **ATJ Developing Leadership Intern Program – *information item* – Chris Ralston/Rachael Mills** – The Access to Justice (ATJ) Developing Leadership Intern Program completed its fourth year on June 21st. The six-week internship provides four rising 2L students the opportunity to work with pro bono and civil legal aid providers. Adams and Reese, L.L.P., Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. and Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P., have been sponsoring law firms since the first year of the program. This past year, Entergy, LLC joined as a sponsoring organization. Chris shared updates on past interns: one is Editor in Chief of the public interest journal at Loyola, one is clerking in a federal court, and another is interning with SLLS.

V. Access to Justice Commission Committee Reports

- a. **Building Bridges – *information item* – Amy Duncan**
 - i. Amy reported that the committee works closely with the Office of Motor Vehicles to address the need for a system for formerly incarcerated people to obtain a provisional driver's license (PDL) under La. R.S. 32:415.3. The Committee finalized a pamphlet created to educate the public on how to obtain a PDL and reinstate a driver's license. Next steps include recording a "How To" video to accompany the pamphlet and which will be made available on the LA Law Help website. Contact Amy Duncan at amy.duncan@lsba.org for physical copies of the pamphlet, or download it [here](#). Please distribute widely.
 - ii. The Committee held a CLE on July 25 for attorneys listed on the Online Modest Means Directory and attorneys interested in volunteering at the Re-Entry Legal Clinic. The CLE programming highlighted the highest priority legal needs for patrons of the clinic. Seven attendees volunteered for the Re-Entry Legal Clinic.
- b. **Funding Committee – *information item* – Chris Ralston/Monte Mollere** – Chris reported on the activities of the committee, which seeks to obtain and maintain funding at the state, local, and federal level. Chris reported that LSC unexpectedly received an increase in federal funding this year. At the state level, after years of hard work, the Louisiana legislature appropriated \$500,000 for civil legal aid (to be divided equally between Acadiana Legal Service Corporation and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services). This appropriation was part of the 2018 supplemental funding, not an appropriation for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Key members of the legislature who put forward the appropriation were Representative Franklin Foil, Representative Cameron Henry, and Senator Eric LaFleur. The committee is developing a plan to recognize these representatives.
- c. **Language Access Committee – *information item* – Linda Johnson** – Linda reported on the committee's surveys of interpreters and attorneys regarding their experiences working with each other and clients with limited English proficiency. The committee will use the survey results as the basis for a report on best practices. The committee also updated the attorney reference card on how to work with court interpreters, which is available [here](#). Sandra noted that the Fall Judges Conference will feature a roleplay panel demonstrating the working relationship between a judge, attorney, client, and interpreter.
- d. **Modest Means Committee – *information item* – Virginia Listach** – Virginia reported on the committee's ongoing efforts to increase the number of attorneys listed on the Modest Means Directory, as only about 60 attorneys are enrolled compared to over 2,500 applications for assistance (at the time of writing). Family law is one area of particularly high demand. Geographic areas with particularly high need include East Baton Rouge, St. Tammany, Jefferson, and Orleans Parishes. The committee has promoted the directory at

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CLEs and events around the state; they are also putting together a repository of resources for attorneys including a family law practice guide, engagement letters, and more.

e. SRL Committee – *information item* – Joanna

- i. Joanna welcomed Judge Cashe as the new chair of the committee and thanked Judge Randow for his dedicated service.
- ii. The committee is partnering with the Louisiana District Judges Association to host an SRL Summit at the St. Bernard Parish Jackson Barracks, tentatively in Oct/Nov. The Summit will focus on technology and issues relevant to veterans and active-duty military members.
- iii. The committee is also working on expanding online resources for SRLs. The Find Legal Help portal receives an average of 136 views per day, demonstrating the need for online resources. The committee has partnered with the Law Library of Louisiana and the civil legal aid task forces to update existing libguides and create a Mayor's Court libguide (available at www.lasc.libguides.com/mayorscourts).
- iv. This is the 6th year that the LSBA is coordinating the Lawyers in Libraries program, which will take place October 21-26, 2019. This year, Jordan and Joanna automated the attorney sign-up at www.lil.volunteer.com/2019.
- v. The committee works with libraries through the LEAP program to provide training to library staff on how to offer legal resources and information to patrons. More trainings will be offered in person across the state later this year, and the committee is also collaborating with the Law Library of Louisiana to film the training and make it permanently available online.

f. Technology Committee – *information item* – Amanda Brown/Dona Renegar – The committee has not had the opportunity to meet this Bar Year but will work on narrowing down the potential project ideas identified at their last meeting. Amanda shared a framework she created for identifying and addressing technology issues – email her at amanda@lagniappelawlab.org to obtain a copy.

VI. Access to Justice Committee Subcommittee Reports

- a. Disaster Response – *information item* – Ann Gregorie/Rachael Mills** – Ann reported on the subcommittee's response to Hurricane Barry, which provided the opportunity to test their new procedures and implementation of the hotline.
- b. IFP Committee – *information item* – Jeffrey Coreil** – With the approval of the LSBA Board of Governors, the committee developed a resolution for the Louisiana legislature which would request that the Louisiana Law State Institute examine inconsistencies in application of IFP procedures in courts across the state. The resolutions were approved by the House and the Senate. Jeff reported that Louisiana State Law Institute Director Judge Guy Holdridge conveyed his interest in this issue and plans to form a joint committee to study it. He has asked Jeff to be a member of this committee and Jeff provided Judge Holdridge with the white papers created by Louisiana Appleseed.
- c. Pro Bono – *information item* – Rachael Mills** – Rachael reported on the Senior Lawyers Division's proposed revisions to the Emeritus Rule, which were approved by the House of Delegates at the LSBA Annual Meeting and have now provided to the Supreme Court for approval. The Pro Bono Subcommittee is working with the Supreme Court to possibly expand the revisions to include pro bono work, which the original revisions did not address.

VII. Adjourn: next ATJ Commission Meeting is in Lafayette on November 8, 2019 at 10 am