

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**10:00 P.M. ★ Monday, October 2, 2017**  
**New Orleans, LA**

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**Attendance:**

Marta Schnabel, Co-Chair  
Terri Anderson-Scott, Acadiana Legal Services Corp.  
Brad Barback, Long Law Firm  
Stephanie Beaugh, Louisiana Appleseed  
Tayla Bergeron, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corp.  
Sean Brady, Flanagan Partners LLP  
Jeffrey Coreil, Nenuer Pate  
Laura Fine, Lehmann Norman & Marcus, LLC  
Samnel Ford, Varadi, Hair, & Checki, LLC  
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association  
Laila Hlass, Tulane Law School  
Mark Judson, Southwest Louisiana Law Center, Inc.  
Kathleen Legendre, Pro Bono Project  
Christine Lipsey, McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC  
Betty Maury, Maury Law Firm, LLC  
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  
Anna St. John, Attorney at Law  
Lisa Stansky, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.  
Jane Thomas, Attorney at Law  
Laura Tuggle, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.  
Sharonda Williams, Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley Willis & Swanson, LLP  
Julia Wilson, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

**Staff:**

Monte Mollere, ATJ Director  
Amy Duncan, ATJ Training Counsel  
Rachael Mills, ATJ Project Counsel  
Michael Schachtman, ATJ SRL Counsel  
Nicole Louque, ATJ Administrative Assistant

**Guest:**

Danielle Barringer, Southeast Louisiana Legal  
Amanda Beck, Pro Bono Project  
Chris Sellers, LSBA Leadership Class  
Elizabeth Shay, LSBA Leadership Class

**Welcome & Introductions**

Co-chair Marta Schnabel welcomed the committee and everyone introduced themselves.

Monte Mollere briefly reviewed the ATJ Committee Subcommittees and encouraged members to get involved. In addition the history of the Louisiana ATJ Commission was explained. Monte will be in contact with new members to discuss their work and interest that may be address by the ATJ Committee.

## Justice Community Issues

**Access to Justice Commission Updates** – The work of the Access to Justice Commission Committees is a driving force for ATJ in Louisiana.

### *Building Bridges Committee – Laura Tuggle, Chair*

Louisiana is one of the most incarcerated places in the world, and as such, one of the projects of this committee is to help people in Re-Entry courts through assistance with civil legal problems that challenge their successful re-entry into society. The committee has programs in Orleans, Jefferson and the 22<sup>nd</sup> JDC and is possibly soon the 19<sup>th</sup> JDC. Potential grants and funding opportunities are being examined. The program needs volunteers to help with the civil cases. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Amy Duncan.

Since the committee focuses on building bridges between the civil and criminal justice communities, meetings with the public defenders offices will be scheduled to help education them on civil legal aid.

### *State Funding – Monte Mollere/Rachael Mills, staff liaisons*

Several years ago Louisiana received up to \$500,000 in state funding; currently the appropriation is \$0. The funding committee is working with legislators to secure appropriations. The committee may call on you if you have a relationship with any legislators to help arrange meetings to education them on civil legal aid. LSBA/LBF leadership works year around to develop state and federal funding. Earlier this year, there was a plan to eliminate all federal funding for civil legal aid. The Senate has proposed a budget of \$375M and the House a budget of \$300M. The LBF funded an Economic Impact Study that showed for every dollar spent on civil legal aid in Louisiana there was an \$8.73 economic benefit.

### *Language Access- Luz Molina, chair*

This committee has been charged with determining the state of language access in Louisiana. Many people can barely afford filling fees much less interpreters. The committee is taking steps to educate attorneys of the need for professional interpreters. The Supreme Court has a page on their website with a list of Certified/Register interpreters and as produced a bench card for Judges. Recently this committee has developed an office card for attorneys that can be found on the LSBA website. They have completed an interpreter's survey and are currently working on the report as well as working on an attorney survey to determine how attorneys use interpreters and interact with the system. The committee through Louisiana Appleseed is working with Phelps Dunbar volunteers to conduct a nationwide best practices survey. Loyola has programs that will assist interpreters in becoming certified.

### *Modest Means – Amy Duncan, staff liaison*

A proposal by this Committee to create a Modest Means Directory has been approved by the ATJ Commission and the LSBA Board of Governors. The LSBA has offered to host the directory on their website. It will list attorneys that offer their services at a reduced cost, sliding scale or flat fee. Attorneys will be listed by parish and area of practice. The committee is working on a CLE for attorneys interested in being included in the directory.

### SRL Committee – Michael Schachtman, staff liaison

The committee is working on several new projects; one of which is the continuum project. The continuum was introduced as an option to refer the 500+ calls that come into the LSBA each month looking for some sort of legal assistance. The website (continuum) will have all the services available to a person from full representation to self-representation. The website will also house the newly approved Domestic Forms. The committee plans to address city and municipal court issues.

## **ATJ Subcommittee and Staff Reports**

### **Disaster Subcommittee – Ann Gregorie**

The Disaster Team was created after Hurricane Katrina and consists of attorneys from several civil legal aid agencies throughout the state. Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria Louisiana Civil Justice Center was asked to open a disaster hotline for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

### **Pro Bono Subcommittee**

#### Louisiana Pro Bono Survey – Jeff Coreil, ATJ Committee Co-Chair

In 2017 Louisiana participated in a Pro Bono survey distributed by the ABA. The goal of the survey was to quantify the amount of pro bono work done in Louisiana, obtain the characteristics of recent pro bono service, and to determine what factors encourage or discourage pro bono services. Jeff Coreil gave an overview of the findings.

#### Pro Bono Summit – Rachael Mills

A Pro Bono Summit is scheduled to be held on January 18, 2017 in Baton Rouge at the Renaissance hotel in conjunction with the LSBA Mid-Year Meeting. A draft agenda was distributed. Cheryl Zalenski, Director of the Center for Pro Bono at the ABA, will join us to discuss the results of the ABA Pro Bono Survey. Rachael Mills asked committee members to submit the names of individuals they may wish to include on the invitation list. Laura Tuggle informed the committee that SLLS will receive one of the first Pro Bono Transformation Grants.

#### Lawyers in Library – Nicole Louque

Nicole gave a brief overview of the program for the new members. Currently there are three parishes where volunteers are needed to conduct an event. A list of the events was provided.

## **News from Justice Community Members**

### **Louisiana Justice Community Conference – Amy Duncan**

The conference will be held on October 12 & 13 in Baton Rouge at the Crown Plaza. The theme will be Access to Justice Heroes.

### **Southeast Louisiana Legal Services – Laura Tuggle**

The kickoff event for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Supreme Court. They are also working on a display for the museum in the Supreme Court.

### **Louisiana Civil Justice Center – Jonathan Rhodes**

LCJC recently looked at national averages and found that their organization takes twice the calls at half the cost as organizations similar to them.