

LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 A.M. Friday, April 14, 2023
LA Bar Center 601 St. Charles Avenue

Meeting ID: 831-5346-1251
Passcode:
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Attendees:

- Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White, Chair, East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court (retired)
- Tina Suggs, Vice Chair, Frederick A. Miller & Associates
- Roxanne Newman, Vice Chair, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Terri Anderson-Scott, Regional Managing Attorney, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- Nicole Bowyer, State Farm Insurance
- Quinn Brown, LaFleur & Laborde LLC
- Jessica Cantave, Lafayette Public Defender's Office
- Gwendolyn Collins-Greenup, LIFT Graduate, Greenup Law, LLC
- Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Managing Attorney, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- Sarah Harbison, General Counsel, Pelican Institute for Public Policy
- C. C. Kahr, Executive Director, Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Chapter
- Prof. Robert Lancaster, Assistant Dean of Experiential Education, Louisiana State University
- Prof. Luz Molina, Clinic Professor, Loyola University College of Law
- Jeffrey Nicholson, Nicholson Law Firm LLC
- Joseph Oelkers III, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- Elena Perez, Executive Director, New Orleans Federal Bar Association
- Lisa Stansky, Technology Initiatives & Special Projects Mgr., Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Hon. Raymond Steib, 24th Judicial District Court
- Jane Thomas, Elder Law Task Force, Attorney at Law
- Ranie Thompson, Director, CrescentCare Legal Services
- Josef Ventulan, Staff Attorney, Louisiana State Law Institute
- Adrienne Wheeler, Executive Director, Louisiana Appleseed

Guests:

- Clayton Christian, LSBA Leadership Class
- Dalton Courson, Director of Litigation, Disability Rights Louisiana
- Joseph Dronet, LSBA Leadership Class
- Stephen I. Dwyer, LSBA President
- Libby Whiteside Kiger, Assistant Director of Development, Disability Rights Louisiana

LSBA Staff:

- Stephanie Beagh, Access to Justice Projects Counsel
- Bridget Berins, Access to Justice Coordinator
- Rachael Mills, Access to Justice Projects Counsel
- Monte Mollere, Access to Justice Executive Director

*** A G E N D A ***

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Judge Lisa Woodruff-White welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- II. **Consent Calendar** - A motion to accept the Consent Calendar was made by Tina Suggs, seconded by Professor Luz Molina and was adopted.
- III. **ATJ Committee Initiatives**
 - a. **Pro Bono Awards** –ATJ nominating committee recommendations of 2022 Pro Bono and Children’s Law Awards recipients were ratified unanimously.
 - b. **ATJ Grant Awards** –ATJ Grant Fund applications were reviewed, and funding recommendations were discussed. Judge Steib moved for a vote; Terry Scott seconded. The vote was unanimous with 1 abstention. ATJ Grant recommendations to the LBF were: Disability Rights Louisiana - \$6,000 to support the coordination of state-wide intake and referral efforts; Lagniappe Law Lab – \$25,000 to support and continue ongoing work on a statewide forms automation project, which began in 2021 as a pilot program in partnership with the Louisiana Supreme Court, Suffolk University, the ATJ Commission Self-Represented Litigants Committee, and Technology Committee.; and Louisiana Appleseed – \$19,000 to identify the state’s volume of heirs’ properties; and technologies required to record and produce maps.
- IV. **2022-23 Committee Planning and Goals**
 - a. **SRL Assistance**
 - i. **Community Navigators**– Judge Woodruff-White reported on a conversation with Legal Link. She described how the program worked by answering questions in the program and receiving an automated response that suggested various resource agencies to address the various issues that were identified by the program. Stephen Dwyer suggested more attorneys be recruited to do pro bono in a similar way that the “Transition into Practice” LSBA program recruits volunteers.
 - ii. **Data Collection** –Judge Lisa Woodruff White reported that a survey is being conducted by the National Center for State Courts for the American Judges Association about how other states are addressing access to justice issues.
 - iii. **Substantive Education** for Survivors of Domestic Abuse and their support organizations – Roxanne Newman discussed the need to educate the non-legal community about legal resources so that they may educate the people that they help and the need to educate the legal and pro bono communities about organizations like DART that are available.
 - b. **Current or Short-range Plans and Goals**
 - i. **Gap in Services for the Elderly** – Jane Thomas reviewed the report provided to the group which discussed the need for services related to interdictions and alternatives thereto. The report included a listing of currently available attorney resources and recommendations for developing education resources for the legal community, both public interest attorneys and volunteers from the private sector. She recommended updating bench cards and coordination of already available resources.

- ii. **Heir Property** –Adrienne Wheeler reported on the status of the Estate Planning documents, who is working on the different documents and the steps the documents go through before being available for the public. Once reviewed the documents will go to a focus group of lay people to judge the documents clarity to the general public. She also requested volunteers for writing and reviewing documents.
- iii. **Disaster Pro Bono Cases** Monte Mollere report that ATJ Staff have begun soliciting the names of individuals willing to be listed on a resource list (expert panel list) in various areas of public interest law. List participants will support volunteers and attorneys. Section Chairs will be engaged for possible assistance at the Section Chairs Meeting held at the LSBA Annual Meeting.

V. **ATJ Commission Initiatives Reports**

- a. **ATJ Conclave** – LSBA President Stephen I. Dwyer reported on the success of the ATJ Conclave in bringing organizations together and expressed his desire for this to continue each year. Other Conclave attendees commented, and Monte Mollere reviewed the next steps for the ATJ Commission in moving forward with the priorities established by the group. The three priorities are: expand community education, develop partnerships, i.e., United Way, and create a comprehensive marketing plan for the public.
- b. **Justice For All Initiative** –Stephanie Beagh and Rachael Mills reported that with remaining JFA funding, two additional legal help access points are being developed (St. Bernard and Beauregard Parishes). Lagniappe Law Lab will support the work of Jefferson Parish Courts as they establish their own legal help access point in the Yenni Building.
- c. **Louisiana Justice Community Conference** - Bridget Berins requested proposal for session topics be submitted for the November conference at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023LJCC> and that the LSBA is [accepting nominations](#) for the 2023 Civil Legal Aid awards through August 4. Winners will be recognized at the Justice Community Conference in Baton Rouge.

Community Updates – Members were reminded to email Bridget.Berins@lsba.org if interested in remaining a member of the ATJ Committee again during the 2023-2024 year.

- ## VI. **Adjournment** – Thank you all for devoting your time and talent to the 2022-23 LSBA’s Access to Justice Committee.