

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 A.M. ★ Monday, December 15, 2014
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Marta Schnabel, Co-Chair
Luz Molina, Co-Chair
Jamie Campbell, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.
Douglas Carey, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.
Linton Carney, The Pro Bono Project- NOLA
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Franchesca Hamilton Ackers, Acadiana Legal Services Corp
Brian Lenard, Hammond LA
Kathleen McNelis, LA Bar Foundation
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Rachel Piercey, The Pro Bono Project
Tara Richard, LA Appleseed
Lisa Stansky, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.
Sharonda Williams, City of New Orleans Law Dept.
Emily Ziober, Attorney at Law

Staff:

Monte Mollere, ATJ Director
Jonathan Rhodes, ATJ Training Counsel
Michael Schachtman, ATJ Self-Represented Litigation Counsel
Nicole Louque, ATJ Administrative Assistant

Guest:

Sean Brady, LSBA Leadership Class
Chris Ralston, Phelps, Dunbar
Micah Fincher, LSBA Leadership Class
Sascha Bollag, N.O. Fair Housing
Graham Ryan, LSBA Leadership Class
Jenny Rizzo, Human Rights First
Jill Chanen, Editor ABA Journal
Ken Mayeaux, LSU Law Center
Melanie Donahue, LSBA Leadership Class
Lynette Roberson, LSBA Leadership Class

Welcome & Introductions

Marta Schnabel and Luz Molina welcomed the committee members and guests and thanked everyone for attending. The Committee and ATJ Staff had an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Consent Calendar

A motion by Linton Carney to approve the consent calendar, was seconded by Jamie Campbell, and passed.

Other Justice Community Issues

“Haccess to Justice “ Hackathon- Graham Ryan gave an overview of the vision for the program. The idea is to bring together the legal aid community and the Technology community to identify specific problems with gaining access to justice, then create technology oriented solutions to solve those problems. First step would be a presentation from a panel of legal aid providers that would highlight ways people obtain legal aid in the state and identify areas

technology may be helpful. Then the actual Hackathon is held to see what current applications can be reworked or tailored to solve the problems they have identified. It is hopeful that the Hackathon will do three things: 1. Build relationships between the Technology community and legal aid providers to increase technological solutions to access to justice. 2. Develop tangible solutions to aid Pro Se individuals and legal aid providers. 3. Showcase on a statewide, regional and national scale the legal professions commitment to access to justice. Graham would like help from the committee to identify some of the problems with gaining access to justice. Jill echoed what Graham's comments and recommended the committee focus on the problems and let the hackers find the solution. Graham said they are working to have the event mid to late March hopefully during Entrepreneur week. Marta asked that the committee take this information back to their agencies and collect ideas.

Louisiana Immigration Work Group – Ken Mayeaux and Jennifer Rizzo - Jennifer gave a brief overview. Louisiana is underserved in terms immigration representation. Some Louisiana immigration detention facilities are in remote locations of the state making it difficult for detainees to obtain lawyers. Many child immigrant have recently come into the state. LSBA, LSU, Loyola and Human Rights organization partnered in March to put on an event called “Left out in Louisiana”. The event looked at the problems with immigration representation and from that group a working group was formed that meets quarterly. The group consists of key leaders from legal services, law schools, large local firms, local bar leaders, the LSBA and Judge Jay Zainey. The working group has 3 focus areas: unaccompanied children, detained immigrants and crime victims.

Ken reported that a big focus is on unaccompanied children. Many of the children were released to families. A training event was put together to train attorneys to handle these types of cases, Pro Bono and Juvenile (PB&J). About 100 people attended the training and they were able to match 60 cases. Another issue is crime victims. Until now the only organization available to help these victims has been Catholic Charities of New Orleans but those cases are limited to domestic violence issues. The last issues being addressed is Detention. It is impossible to link up each person with pro bono attorneys. They are focusing on a more narrow area by allowing attorneys to do limited representation for the bond hearing. They have attracted a \$15,000 seed grant to support the bond project and they are putting a grant proposal together for the Bar Foundation. Jennifer reported that The Pro Bono Project and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services have begun to do more immigration work. The two things the group needs help with are more pro bono attorneys and funding. The next Working Group meeting is February 23, 2015.

Access to Justice Planning- Marta Schnabel - The ATJ Planning conclave will be held on March 27, 2015 at the City Club in Baton Rouge by invitation. Facilitator John Tull will be here prior to the event to conduct preliminary interviews and may be contacting committee members.

Pro Bono Awards – Nicole Louque – Nominations are now open for all LSBA Pro Bono. Deadline for nominations is February 20, 2015. The awards ceremony and reception will be hosted at the Supreme Court on May 19, 2015.

Pro Bono Subcommittee – Jonathan Rhodes- The subcommittee has postponed planning a statewide Pro Bono Summit until after the ATJ Planning Conclave.

LCJC – Jonathan Rhodes – The hotline is now providing direct services. LCJC is now administering the Orleans Civil District Court help desk and has expanded the hours to 5 days a week, 9am-12pm and 1pm-3pm. LCJC is also conducting a pilot program, similar to the Orleans help desk, in Jefferson on Tuesday and Thursday 10am-12pm. The LIFT incubator program is going well with 4 incubator fellows and 8 practice network attorneys. LCJC is looking forward to expanding to Baton Rouge and Shreveport in the coming year. In 2015 the program will focus on outreach and awareness and availability of services.

Recognition of Civil Legal Aid Providers –Jonathan Rhodes/Kathleen McNelis – Two proposals for new awards to recognize civil legal aid employees were presented to the committee for approval. Currently the LSBA only recognizes public interest staff with one award - Career Public Service Award. These awards are opportunities to recognize good work that people are doing today that people might learn from. The awards recognize innovation and excellence of advocacy by public interest staff and organizations. The awards will be given out at the Louisiana Justice Community Conference.

News from Committee Members – Lisa Stanky indicated that SLLS was approved for a TIG grant to create interactive forms in the areas of child support, custody by mandate, expungement, and small claims court. Linton reported that the Pro Bono Project started a clinic on Thursdays to do custody by mandate for clients for Southeast Legal Services.

ATJ Subcommittee Updates

Funding Subcommittee – Chris Ralston – The subcommittee has been meeting regularly to develop ideas. Some of the things the subcommittee is looking at filing fees, notarial fees, and Pro Hac Vice fees.

Gap Assessment Subcommittee - Luz Molina – The subcommittee is examining a broader more statistically accurate means of conducting the biannual unmet legal needs study. Brian suggested approaching universities to determine if they would be willing to assist as part of a class. IFP issues still plague various providers and the group continues to examine these as they arise.

SRL Subcommittee – Michael Schachtman/Kathleen McNelis – An SRL Subcommittee meeting was held at the LJCC Conference, which was very successful. Libguide training will begin at the Library Association Conference in March. Kathleen reported the group is working on new ways of data collection from the help desk. In the materials you will find a statewide referral list.

Technology Subcommittee – Monte Mollere – Linda has been updating PRIME with legal service agencies throughout the state. They are still working on updating some of the customized programs created in PRIME.

Motion to adjourn