

LSBA Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee
Thursday, October 6, 2016
New Orleans, LA

1. Special Ed 101 Presentation Recap

The committee co-sponsored a presentation at Southern in August on the rights of students with disabilities, and legal obligations of public schools. Over 70 people attended the event, which was also open to the public, and featured attorneys from the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Advocacy Center, Louisiana Dept. of Education and school board counsel, and also a representative from the Louisiana Association of Special Education Administrators. There have been several requests to make this an annual event.

2. Disabilities Speaker Series

The next session of the Committee's "Disability Speaker Series" is scheduled for Jan. 19 at the LSBA midyear meeting and will cover social security appeals. The session is free. In January, the committee will discuss plans for an addition CLE during the current bar year. The committee is also sponsoring a CLE on Feb. 3 titled "Advocating for Individuals (and their families) Living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)" in partnership with The Advocacy Center and others. Ken Human reported that he is working on a project tracking the demographics of disabilities, and Brian Spurlock reported on updates to HIPAA-HITECH regulation and will send the committee relevant forms.

3. Special needs trust CLE

The committee has twice sponsored CLEs on "special needs trusts" – once led by Joel Mendler, and once by Carol Neff, both in New Orleans. The nominal cost of the sessions has helped garner attendance, but so too has this topic which is relevant to many practitioners with a variety of practice areas. The committee will look to host this session again, with potential live video-conferencing to the Lafayette, Shreveport, and Baton Rouge Bar Associations (depending on availability).

4. Law School Outreach

The committee has provided substantive law presentations to various law school courses and clinics, and also sponsored informal lunches to speak with students about their experiences. Because sessions occurring earlier in the semester are much better attended, and typically scheduled a couple months in advance, we the Committee will look to facilitate events during the spring semester.

5. Legislative Updates

The Committee cannot unilaterally take a position on proposed state legislation, but can request that the Bar's House of Delegates do so by sending a resolution to the LSBA Legislation Committee. This process can take a while, so committee members should notify Michael.Schachtman@lsba.org as soon as possible if they would like to submit a resolution.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 10, 2016.**