

LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE
10:00 A.M. Thursday, October 20, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

- **Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White, Chair, East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court (retired)**
- **Roxanne Newman, Vice- Chair Southeast Louisiana Legal Services**
- **Tina Suggs, Vice Chair, Frederick A. Miller & Associates**
- Talya Bergeron, Directing Attorney, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Carlesia Carmena Bibbins, staff attorney, LA Dept. of Health
- Nicole Bowyer, State Farm Insurance
- Gwendolyn Collins-Greenup, LIFT Graduate, Greenup Law, LLC
- Jasmine Cooper, Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office
- Candace B. Ford, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, LLP
- Ann K. Gregorie, Executive Director, Baton Rouge Bar Association
- Tracy O. Joseph, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Gregory L. Landry, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
- Kathleen Legendre, Zara Zeringue, LLC
- Prof. Luz Molina, Clinic Professor, Loyola University College of Law
- Jeffrey Nicholson, Nicholson Law Firm LLC
- Jeremy Nusloch, Frederick A Miller & Assoc.
- Joseph Oelkers III, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- Sara Pic, Head of Public Services, Law Library of Louisiana
- Laura Reeds, Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana
- Maggie Trahan Simar, Hearing Officer 16th JDC Family Court Hearing
- Lisa Stansky, Technology Initiatives & Special Projects Mgr., Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Jane Thomas, Elder Law Task Force, Attorney at Law
- Ranie Thompson, Director, CrescentCare Legal Services
- Laura Tuggle, Executive Director, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corporation
- Adrienne Wheeler, Executive Director, Louisiana Appleseed
- Sarah Whittington, Advocacy Director, Justice & Accountability Center of Louisiana

Guests:

- Catherine Carrier, LSBA Leadership Class
- Trinity Goins, LSBA Leadership Class
- Tiyanni Lords, LSBA Leadership Class
- Stephanie Poucher, LSBA Leadership Class
- Karina Shareen, LSBA Leadership Class
- Kelly Stephens, Legal Innovators for Tomorrow Fellow

LSBA Staff:

- Stephanie Beough
- Bridget Berins
- Amy Duncan
- Rachael Mills
- Monte Mollere
- Evian Mugarbi

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- 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 adopted by voice vote.
- III. **Review of 2023 Committee Conversations and Activities**
 - a. **Heir Property** –Adrienne Wheeler reported that funding has been made available to continue work with heir property legal clinics. Louisiana Appleaseed plans to create a will generator for legal aid attorneys. Appleaseed will also work on the passage of the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act in 2024.
 - b. **Disaster Pro Bono Cases** –Work continues on the expansion of an “expert panel” particularly for emergency case where public interest attorneys may need consultations in areas of the law with which they are less familiar. (e.g., construction law)
 - c. **Data Collection** –Judge Lisa Woodruff White reported that the data collected by the NCSC for the American Judges Association showed that a personal touch service such as non-lawyer legal navigators works well. Law students and social workers are a great resource for legal navigators. Laura Tuggle referred the committee to the Alaska Report: <https://www.lsc.gov/press-release/talk-justice-lsc-podcast-mobilizing-non-lawyers-limited-scope-legal-assistance-alaska>
 - d. **Educational Issues**
 - i. **Interdiction/Supported Decision Making** – Jane Thomas reported that the Governor’s office is installing 6 half-hour videos on becoming a Family Curator. After viewing the videos, participants may be eligible for “family curator” status.
 - ii. **Educating Domestic Violence Organizations** – Stephanie Beagh and Rachael Mills met with DART to share our resources for Domestic Violence. DART used these resources as a starting point to develop a web page for DV adjacent legal issues. With funding provided by LBF, DV organizations are adding attorneys to their offices and SLLS will provide training for these domestic violence attorneys.
- IV. **ATJ Commission Committee and Initiatives**
 - a. **ATJ Conclave** –Amy Ducan and Monte Mollere discussed the results of the conclave which recognized the need for continued education for lawyers and the public. The United Way 211 data has been very useful in identifying the need for legal help to be incorporated in a holistic approach to care for the underserved community. Collaboration among the organizations and marketing ideas need to be explored.
 - b. **Accessibility Committee** –Luz Molina and Stephanie Beagh announced the Language Access Committee’s focus is being broadened to include accessibility issues and being renamed the Accessibility Committee. The committee seeks additional members.
- V. **ATJ Committee Subcommittee and Initiatives**
 - a. **Lawyers in Libraries** - Stephanie Beagh reminded the committee that Lawyers in Libraries will take place Oct. 23-27 with volunteers meeting library patrons in-person in libraries and telephonically. Hour-long presentations are planned by Zoom each day on legal topics of interest to the public.
 - b. **Disaster Law Summit** –Acadiana Legal Service Corp. and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services are hosting the 2nd Annual Disaster Law Summit on June 20th and 21st, 2024 at the Doubletree Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana. ATJ Staff is coordinating this event.
- VI. **Community Updates** –
 - a. Amy Duncan introduced new LIFT Fellow, Kelly Stephens to the committee.

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- b.** Tina Suggs announced that Dillard University is looking to provide paid interns in non-profit organizations. Contact Dr. Ashraf Esmail (504) 442-8591 for more information.
- c.** Lisa Stansky requested everyone complete the surveys she is sending regarding the most needed services for the underserved community.
- d.** SLLS started a new advocacy program for cancer patients' legal needs.
- e.** SLLS has a bar exam fundraiser coming up where Judge Woodruff-White will be the quiz master.

VII. Adjournment

- a.** Next meeting: February 2, 2024, hybrid – in-person location to be determined.