

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
12:00 P.M. ★ Friday, January 18, 2019  
Baton Rouge, LA**

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**Attendance:**

**Jeffrey Coreil, Co-Chair**, Nenuer Pate  
**Dona Renegar, Co-Chair**, Veazey Felder & Renegar LLC  
Stephanie Beagh, Louisiana Appleseed  
Tayla Bergeron, Southeast La Legal Services  
Miriam Childs, Louisiana Supreme Court Library  
Teri Black, Assistant Parish Attorney for Jefferson Parish  
Laura Fine, Lehmann Norman & Marcus, LC  
Luz Molina, Loyola University College of Law  
Joe Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Service Corp., Lafayette  
Elena Perez, Southeast La Legal Services  
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library  
Sachida Raman, Acadiana Legal Services Corp., Lafayette  
Lisa Stansky, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.  
Laura Tuggle, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.  
Sharonda Williams, Fishman Haygood LLP

**Staff:**

Amy Duncan, ATJ Projects and Training Counsel  
Monte Mollere, ATJ Director  
Linda Johnson, ATJ Technology Counsel  
Rachael Mills, ATJ Project Counsel  
Joanna Laidler, ATJ Assistant

**Guests:**

Amanda Brown, LBF Legal Technology Consultant  
Jay Herbert, Southeast La Legal Services

**LSBA Leadership Class:**

Ms. Alyson V. Antoon  
Ms. R. Danielle Barringer  
Ms. Taryn C. Branson  
Ms. Cortney M. Dunn  
Ms. Valerie E. Fontenot  
Ms. Senae D. Hall  
Ms. Teresa D. King  
Ms. Melissa M. Lessell  
Mr. Collin R. Melancon  
Mr. Christopher R. Mistich  
Mr. Ronald J. Sholes, Jr.  
Mr. Joseph B. Williams III  
Mr. Aaron R. Wilson  
Ms. Betty Ann Maury

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Co-chair Jeff Coreil welcomed the Committee members and the LSBA Leadership class. Introductions were made.

**II. Consent Calendar** – A motion to accept items on the consent calendar, including the Statewide Website Report which was circulated prior to the meeting, passed unanimous.

### **III. ATJ Subcommittee and Initiatives Reports**

#### **(a) Gap Assessment Subcommittee – Luz Molina**

Luz Molina reported on the Gap Assessment Report, which has now been finalized. The Report was commissioned to provide Louisiana-specific data on unmet civil legal needs available, instead of having to extrapolate information from national surveys. Using data collected by David Yarbrough and Steve Gruesbeck and information obtained from an LSC study of Louisiana-only data conducted near the same time, the ‘Louisiana Unmet Legal Needs Report’ was prepared by Luz Molina and Amanda Hass. The recommendations from the survey include more study and exploration of triage systems, limited resources reassessment, increased education (44% of people surveyed did not know about relevant legal services), and a follow-up study with additional resources.

#### **(b) Consumer Forms – Jay Herbert**

The Consumer Law Taskforce presented resources they developed for self-represented litigants in consumer claims against third party debt buyers. The taskforce automated online consumer debt buyer forms, with assistance from an LSC Technology Innovation Grant. Jay Herbert provided a demonstration of how a user would navigate an online “Collection Lawsuit Response.” The Taskforce will make minor amendments to the forms. Prior to launching the forms, the Taskforce wants to test the forms on members of the public. The Committee discussed affirmative defenses and how to promote the new forms once they are finalized. To view the consumer forms, please visit:

<https://lawhelpinteractive.org/Interview/GenerateInterview/6774/engine>.

#### **(c) IFP Subcommittee – Jeff Coreil**

Jeff Coreil reported that the newly established subcommittee has had an initial meeting to discuss its short-term goals. The Subcommittee wishes to expand our committee membership, and to arrange speaking opportunities with the Clerk of Courts and the District Court Judges. The Subcommittee is also considering whether this is an issue that the Louisiana State Law Institute may wish to examine.

#### **(d) ATJ Grants – Monte Mollere**

Monte Mollere explained that the Louisiana Bar Foundation ATJ Fund allows distribution of up to \$50,000 in grants each year. Applicable 501(c)(3) organizations need to advise the LSBA if they are interested in applying for the grant so that they can be formally invited to apply. All applications must meet one of the three grants requirements: (a) The advancement and maintenance of statewide technology; (b) The coordination of statewide intake and referral; or (c) Disaster or emergency response. Please contact Monte Mollere or Joanna Laidler for more information.

#### **(e) Pro Bono Subcommittee – Joanna Laidler**

Joanna Laidler updated the group on the time period for submitting online nominations for LSBA the Pro Bono Awards. Nominations opened on Monday December 3, 2018 and will close on February 22, 2019. The awards ceremony will be hosted by the Supreme Court on May 21, 2019. Please contact Monte Mollere or Joanna Laidler if you would like to be on the nomination review committee.

**(f) Disaster Response Subcommittee – Rachael Mills**

The Disaster Planning Subcommittee has prepared a draft disaster response plan for Louisiana's Civil Legal Aid Community. Rachael explained that the updated disaster plan will use the disaster hotline number as a referral service whereby people will leave automatic voice messages and volunteers (students) will be used to direct people to appropriate legal aid organizations. If a disaster occurs, Free Legal Answers can also be used as a way for volunteer attorneys to help disaster victims. If you have any suggestions related to the updated Disaster Plan, please contact Rachael Mills, [rachael.mills@lsba.org](mailto:rachael.mills@lsba.org).

**IV. Access to Justice Commission Reports**

**(a) Funding Committee – Jeff Coreil/Laura Tuggle**

The Funding Committee has made numerous efforts to bring the issue of adequate funding (and the lack of state funding) to the Governor's office and to the legislature. Louisiana is now one of only three states that receives no civil legal aid statewide appropriation or statewide dedicated fee from the state legislature. The Committee believes that there is hope for the future of state funding. Jeff Coreil notes that the updated Economic Impact Study will be a valuable tool at a state and federal level. Laura Tuggle also provided an update about a news article that is being written about civil legal aid funding.

**(b) Technology Committee – Dona Renegar/Amanda Brown**

Amanda Brown provided an update on the Civil Legal Navigator Project and asked for volunteers from the Leadership group to help assemble information. She explained that the Navigator Project is a statewide triage system that will direct people to the appropriate resources to help their legal problems (e.g. legal aid, bar referrals, information, videos, pro bono, form building apps.). Currently the Navigator is focusing on four areas of law. Amanda thanked the attorneys who have provided assistance building out the interview flow to help direct people to appropriate resources. If you have additional questions or want to volunteer contact Amanda at [amanda@raisingthebar.org](mailto:amanda@raisingthebar.org).

**(c) ATJ Leadership Internship Project – Rachael Mills**

For the fourth consecutive year the Access to Justice Developing Leadership Internship will provide select interns (one from each of Louisiana's four law schools) the opportunity to work with various civil legal aid programs and shadow several district court judges in the program. We recognize Entergy LLC as a first year sponsor. Christy Kane will be the contact person. Without the support of these sponsors this highly respected program would not be possible.

**V. Other News**

On 22 February 2019, Southeast Legal Services Northshore Pro Bono Project is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year of providing legal help to vulnerable people by hosting a free CLE and luncheon. Please visit <https://slls.org/event/north-shore-pro-bono-project-10-year-celebration/nspbp-10-luncheon-cle-1/> for additional information.

**VI. Meeting Adjourned – Next Meeting March 22, 2019**