

Louisiana State Bar Association Criminal Justice Committee Meeting

Monday, November 19, 2018 – Noon
LSBA Bar Center, 601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130

Minutes

Attendees:

Graham Bosworth (Chair). Attorney at Law
Michael Morales (Vice-Chair), St. Bernard District Attorney's Office
Hon. Jules Edwards, 15th Judicial District Court
Veronica Bard, Court Watch Nola
Stephanie Beaugh, Louisiana Appleseed
Christopher Cox, Jefferson Parish DA's Office
Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court
Paul Fleming, Jefferson Parish Public Defender's Office
Meghan Garvey, Orleans Public Defender's Office
Paul Hurd, Attorney at Law
Mithun Kamath, Jewish Federation
Simone Levine, Court Watch Nola
Jonathan Rhodes, Attorney at Law
Vanessa Spinazola, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana
Adrienne Wheeler, Louisiana Appleseed
Bob White, Plaquemines Parish District Attorney's Office
Jon Wool, Vera Institute

Staff:

Amy Duncan, LSBA Access to Justice
Linda Johnson, LSBA Access to Justice

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Graham Bosworth and Michael Morales
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Paul Hurd moved to adopt, Jonathan Rhodes second. Minutes were approved as drafted.
- III. **2017-2018 Initiatives:**
 - a. ***Bail Report & Resolution*** (Graham Bosworth, Michael Morales, and Paul Hurd) - Status update on the “Report of the Louisiana Bail System” and review of the related resolution to the HOD.
 - i. *Update on Report and LSBA BOG consideration* - During the last LSBA BOG meeting, the bar president moved to acknowledge and commend the good work of the Committee in drafting the report, which was approved. Then the president discussed the questions raised by Paul Hurd who was unable to attend the meeting. The report was as informational, as the LSBA BOG is not the policy-making body of the LSBA and therefore, cannot

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adopt the recommendations therein. Second, the BOG approved the report being used for informational purposes by the Law Institute.

- ii. *Report to go on Committee webpage* - Based on the discussion at the BOG meeting, we would like to place the report on the Criminal Justice Committee webpage, but not before adding language to the report stating that the report is to be used for informational purposes only and any recommendations in the report have not been endorsed by the LSBA.
 - iii. *Resolution* - Additionally, a resolution has been drafted for the House of Delegates (HOD) to vote on. The resolution includes recommendations from the report. Because the report with recommendations was already voted on and adopted by the Committee, it is not necessary a vote be taken for the resolution to go to the HOD. However, Graham asked for feedback from the Committee members before it is submitted to the HOD in mid-December. Jon Wool made some suggested changes to the draft resolution. Members were advised to email Amy Duncan with any proposed changes or suggestions.
- b. ***Justice Reinvestment Reforms*** (Jonathan Rhodes and Adrienne Wheeler) – Update on the grant process for the reform savings and proposal for civil and criminal legal aid partnerships.
- i. Adrienne Wheeler discussed the work of the Access to Justice Commission’s Building Bridges Committee over the past two years trying to bring together public defenders and civil legal aid attorneys to address civil legal matters of the reentry population. The organizations involved in the Committee have created a program to address legal matters of current and formerly incarcerated people. Now that funding from JRI is on the table, a number of organizations across the state are eligible for funding. The second round of JRI funding will go from 8 to 27 million with 2.9 million going to community incentive grants. For this reason, it is important to form a partnership between the civil and criminal bars statewide to maintain wealth, ensure housing, increase employment opportunities, etc. Adrienne and Amy requested involvement by the committee members on the Building Bridges Committee to represent the criminal bar.
 - ii. Judge Edwards requested that the Building Bridges Committee share resources with him and advise him on any upcoming meetings. Judge Edwards and Jennifer Eagan reported out on the Re-Entry Summit held at Angola in November 2018. There was discussion about what happens with people in Re-Entry Court at Angola during the custodial phase, the release of TIGER, and standards for Re-Entry Courts. The Summit also discussed vocational trade expansion to include heavy operator program and industrial safety programming in addition to masonry, HVAC, welding, and carpentry. With Medicaid expansion, DOC is working with an agency to have Medicaid credentials when leaving Angola. There was also discussion about expanding substance abuse program for Re-Entry Court participants.

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IV. 2018-2019 Initiatives:

- a. **Proposal** (Simone Levine and Veronica Bard) – Proposal to focus on ways to address issues appointing court interpreters in criminal courts.
 - i. Veronica Bard with Court Watch Nola presented an issue they are seeing regarding appointment of court interpreters in Orleans criminal court. Simone asked the Committee to consider this as an initiative to look at as a statewide problem. Linda Johnson, staff liaison to the Language Access Committee of the ATJ Commission, discussed the work of the Committee and the Supreme Court to address the appointment of interpreters. A CLE is being planned for next year for attorneys on language access in the courts and using interpreters.
 1. Update: Chair Luz Molina has expressed interest in this initiative being led by the Language Access Committee. Members of the Language Access committee have met with Simone, Veronica, and other members of the Criminal Justice Committee to further discuss this initiative. They will continue to meet and explore ways to collect data and information of court-appointed interpreters in criminal court across the state.
- b. **2019 Criminal Justice Summit** (Amy Duncan) – Begin planning for 2019 summit and call for volunteers for planning committee.
 - i. Committee will host a summit this year. To get an idea on what topics will be presented, we would like to disseminate a survey to judges, prosecutors and public defenders as well as criminal defense attorneys. We would like this summit to include workshops to be led by members of the committee on specific areas of interest/focus, e.g., risk assessment. To get started, the committee needs to form a planning committee. The committee was asked if there are any topics this committee would like to see included in the summit. The members were also asked if they would be willing to participate in a planning committee.

V. **Open Discussion** – Members were asked if there were any other items to discuss. No items were raised.

VI. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, January 30, 2019

VII. **Adjourn**