

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:30 A.M. ★ Thursday, January 17, 2013  
New Orleans, LA**

**Attendance:**

Luz Molina, Co-Chair  
Linton Carney, The Pro Bono Project – New Orleans  
John Church, LSU Law Center  
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association  
Alma Jones, Legal Services of North LA, Inc.  
Richard Leefe, Leefe, Gibbs, Sullivan, Dupre & Aldous, LLC  
Brian Lenard, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.  
Kathleen McNelis, LA Bar Foundation  
Lindsey Meador, Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, APLC  
Joe Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.  
Rachel Piercey, The Pro Bono Project – New Orleans  
Sachida Raman, Acadiana Legal Services,

Corp.

Hon. Ray Steib, 24<sup>th</sup> JDC  
Bradley Tate, The Shaw Group Inc  
Jane Thomas, Attorney at Law  
Judith Wenger, LA Civil Justice Center

**Guests:**

Participants from the Young Bar Leaders group

**LSBA Staff:**

Linda Johnson, ATJ Technology Counsel  
Monte Mollere, ATJ Director  
Katie Mozier, ATJ Administrative Assistant  
Jonathan Rhodes, ATJ Training Counsel  
Michael Schachtman, Self-Represented Litigation Counsel

**Welcome & Introductions**

Luz Molina welcomed the crowd and thanked everyone for their participation.

**Consent Calendar**

There was a motion to approve the consent calendar, it was seconded, and the consent calendar was approved.

**ATJ Subcommittee Updates**

*Disaster Planning Subcommittee* – Ann Gregorie reported on the Hurricane Isaac disaster response. All of the five Disaster Response Centers have closed at this point. Judith Wenger gave an update on the Louisiana Civil Justice Center. She reported that the Center received 225-250 calls during the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac. The LCJC has been in touch with the Hurricane Sandy group looking for assistance in regards to FEMA. They have hired some intake staff as well. Ms. Molina suggested running advertisements in the event of future disasters. Joe Oelkers mentioned that in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the LSC received \$1 million in relief. Jonathan Rhodes discussed the option of webinars/training as a part of the Hurricane Sandy relief that were offered through the LSBA, which proved very helpful for those assisting in the aftermath of Sandy.

*Funding Subcommittee* – Joe Oelkers reported that the funding subcommittee had not yet met since the last ATJ Committee meeting. He mentioned that Judge Sheral Kellar has been added to the subcommittee. Mr. Oelkers requested that someone from the LBF join the subcommittee for a more rounded and connected group.

*Gap Assessment Subcommittee* – Linda Johnson reported that the subcommittee continues to look at several issues, including small community partitions, debt buyers issue, transfer of custody and LEP issues. Mr. Rhodes expounded on the debt buyers issue: the group working on this is attempting to create a pro bono program to develop materials and training to take on debt buyers issues (i.e. return of security deposits). Kathleen McNelis added that they are setting up a roundtable discussion for a different approach to a solution other than demand letters. Ms. Molina explained more on the LEP issues, discussing the development of the Language Access Coalition under the subcommittee. The Supreme Court received a grant to set up and promote a training for interpreters, that would include a registry and certification.

*Pro Bono Subcommittee* – Linton Carney reported on the opening of the Pro Bono Awards nominations. The deadline for nominations is February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Pro Bono Awards are sponsored by the ATJ Policy Committee, and all ATJ Committee members are encouraged to send in nominations. Mr. Rhodes discussed the possible development of a Pro Bono Summit in congruence with the Louisiana Justice Community Conference held in October to reinvigorate pro bono through statewide summits that bring together leadership from the courts, firms, bar, and the like. The Pro Bono Subcommittee will assist the Bar as needed in carrying out this program.

*SRL Subcommittee* – Kathleen McNelis reported that the subcommittee is working on several projects at the moment, including the development of a child support brochure and the featuring on an article on statewide SRL initiatives that was featured in the October/November 2012 issue of the Bar Journal. Michael Schachtman reported the status of the self-help desks in Alexandria, New Orleans, Shreveport, Jefferson Parish and Baton Rouge. Mr. Schachtman also discussed his work with the Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA) in developing a judicial tool-kit for judges interested in implementing self-help services in their jurisdiction. They are also developing a simple, uniform divorce form that could be used statewide by SRL to file in lieu of a petition. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Schachtman will be leading a one-day course at Loyola on SRL and vulnerable populations. In May 2013, he will be participating in a panel on SRL at the Equal Justice Conference in St. Louis, MO.

*Technology Subcommittee* – Ms. Johnson updated the committee on several issues. The subcommittee has been working on a statewide survey of training needs (i.e. Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe, etc.) The results of this survey are being sent to the SCM Group. The LSCs are also soliciting new ideas for training.

### **ATJ Policy Committee Report**

Mr. Rhodes reported on the ATJ Policy Committee issue of IFP. He has developed an IFP Action Plan and Protocol, which was approved by the LSBA Board of Governors. Alma Jones is discussing IFP with the LSCs at their Board meeting. They are still looking at getting the issue on the agenda for the judges' summer school. It was also noted that the Access to Justice team will be receiving the Good Apple Award from LA Appleseed.

**Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned.