

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
9:30 A.M. ★ Tuesday, May 21, 2013
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Marta-Ann Schnabel, Chair
Luz Molina, Vice-Chair
Jamie Campbell, Southeast LA Legal Services Corporation
Linton Carney, The Pro Bono Project – New Orleans
John Church, LSU Law Center
Lawanda Gibson, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker,
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Hon. Sheral Kellar, LA Department of Labor
Brian Lenard, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.

New Orleans

Lisa Stansky, Southeast LA Legal Services Corporation
Hon. Ray Steib, 24th JDC
Bradley Tate, The Shaw Group Inc
Jane Thomas, Attorney at Law
Emily Ziober, Attorney at Law

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

Rachel Piercey, The Pro Bono Project –

Welcome & Introductions

Marta Schnabel 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 that the Subcommittee has been in touch with LA Appleseed regarding updating the Disaster Training Manual. The YLD chair and the ABA YLS Disaster Liaison (Cristin Fitzgerald) have been contacted and are being encouraged to solicit volunteers and raise awareness of the need for volunteer attorneys as hurricane season approaches. We will also be distributing the Disaster Wallet Card to the justice community. The subcommittee will meet after annual meeting. Jonathan Rhodes discussed the editing of the Disaster Training Manual; when that is finished, a training will be scheduled. Marta-Ann Schnabel reminded the Committee of the role of LCJC in a disaster and the disaster plan which can be found on the website.

Funding Subcommittee – Monte Mollere reported on the severe funding cuts for Louisiana LSCs, and the unlikelihood of any state appropriation this year. With that in mind, the subcommittee decided the best course of action would be to stay on the legislators' radar with

education. President Musser recently endorsed a letter to be sent to the governor and legislators of the state with an educational quadfold on the funding crisis for the LSCs. Luz Molina suggested perhaps a legislator or judge could write an op-ed, article or law review to start an open discussion about the funding crisis. Brian Lenard discussed the poverty census that will affect huge losses in funding for the LSCs with a six month to a year phase, which is quicker than initially thought. Rachel Piercey suggests more encouragement of the private bar as LSC funding disappears. Perhaps language of law can be looked at to see if there is any wiggle room with funding.

Gap Assessment Subcommittee – Luz Molina gave an update on the subcommittee. They have focused on a few issues, namely voluntary transfer of custody, small community property partition, debt-buyer cases and return of security deposits. The subcommittee has developed a new survey, which needs the Committee's approval to move forward and distribute. There was a motion to approve the survey; the motion was seconded, and the survey was approved. Linda Johnson will distribute the new survey to the ATJ and ATJ Policy Committees, and the subcommittee will edit upon feedback. The subcommittee requests that if anyone has contacts with any of the services agencies, to encourage them to participate in the survey. Emily Ziober said that she would follow up with Catholic Charities. Linton Carney said he would follow up with Tulane and AIDS Law. Ms. Schnabel discussed a recent call on behalf of the Committee with Appleseed to the Department of Education to discuss the custody by mandate issue. The DoE was well aware of the situation and was glad to hear the concern of the justice community with this issue. The two DoE representatives' contacts will be disseminated to the Committee, so that for now, if you know of a custody by mandate issue, you may call them directly. Meanwhile, the Committee and Appleseed will work with the DoE on an education campaign and talk to school districts about this issue, considering it violates state and federal law.

Pro Bono Subcommittee – Linton Carney reported that the Pro Bono Awards ceremony will be held the night of Tuesday, May 21st. Mr. Mollere mentioned that there needs to be more enthusiasm in the nominating process, since there were fewer nominees and therefore winners this year. Jane Thomas asked the group if there was a place online that had a compiled list of all of the Pro Bono Projects around the state and what they are working on. Lisa Stansky mentioned the possibility of that list being hosted on the law-help.org site. Ms. Schnabel supported the idea of compiling that list and the LCJC site could host it as well. Mr. Carney mentioned that Loyola University has updated their "desk-book," which is a comprehensive overview of substantive law topics. One may download the whole book, or view sections of it on Loyola Law's website.

SRL Subcommittee – Michael Schachtman asked the Committee to approve the SRL Subcommittee's statewide divorce forms to pass along to the LDJA. Once the LDJA finally approves the forms, they will be sent to the Rules Committee. The forms will eventually be posted on the Law-help.org website. Mr. Schachtman and Mr. Mollere will, in conjunction with some of the judges present, be handing out judicial "toolkits" at the LSBA Annual Meeting. These 1-gb USB drives have all of the forms on them, with instructions, for the judges' perusal. Judge Ray Steib suggested giving these toolkits to the clerks. Ms. Stansky discussed the possibility of the LDJA hosting a password-protected section of their site for the forms. Judge Steib also suggested that maybe Mr. Schachtman host a training specifically targeted to the clerks, and offered the 24th JDC as a base.

Technology Subcommittee – Jane Thomas reported on the Subcommittee’s activities. She mentioned that SLLS submitted a letter of intent for a grant to develop the capacity for online intake and website resources. They will hear back in September. The Subcommittee is evaluating new technologies and will post their findings on probono.net.

Announcements

Mr. Rhodes reported on the 10th annual Louisiana Justice Community Conference this upcoming October 10-11, 2013. He had just sent out the training survey asking attendees what training they would like to receive. There will be a CINC pre-conference as well as a foreclosure pre-conference.

Future of ATJ Leadership

Ms. Schnabel encouraged Committee members to recruit future leaders for the ATJ Committee. She stressed the importance of “new blood,” which is integral for progress. She asked that members send in suggestions of new members.

ATJ Policy Committee Issues

Ms. Schnabel discussed the direction of the ATJ Policy Committee for the near future. They will be focusing on strategic planning for the Justice community, which will hopefully reinvigorate all participants. Stakeholders, committee members, etc. will all be asked to participate.

Adjournment

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