

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 A.M. ★Friday, August 28, 2015
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Marta Schnabel, Co-Chair
Luz Molina, Co-Chair
Erica Andrews, Law Offices of Erica Andrews, LLC
Ryan Beasley, Law Office of Ryan Beasley Sr.
Jamie Campbell, Southeast LA Legal Services Corp.
Linton Carney, The Pro Bono Project- NOLA
Leon Emanuel, Legal Services of North Louisiana
LaWanda Gibson, Acadiana Legal Services Corp
Franchesca Hamilton Ackers, Acadiana Legal Services Corp
Mark Judson, Southwest Louisiana Law Center, Inc.
Veronica Lam, Attorney at Law
Brian Lenard, Hammond LA
Jacqueline Maher, Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert, LLC
Kathleen McNelis, LA Bar Foundation
Judson Mitchell, Loyola University College of Law
Joseph Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Services Corp
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Jonathan Rhodes, Louisiana Civil Justice Center
Tara Richard, LA Appleseed
Hon. Kathleen Richey, Louisiana Children
Lynette Roberson, LA State Law Institute
Graham Ryan, Jones Walker LLP
Anna St. John, Center for Class Action Fairness
Lisa Stansky, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.
Scott Sternberg, Baldwin Haspel Burke & Mayer, LLC
Laura Tuggle, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
Sharonda Williams, City of New Orleans Law Dept.
Emily Ziober, Attorney at Law

Staff:

Monte Mollere, ATJ Director
Amy Duncan, ATJ Training Counsel
Michael Schachtman, ATJ Self-Represented Litigation Counsel
Nicole Louque, ATJ Administrative Assistant

Guest:

John Tull, ATJ Summit Facilitator
Chris Ralston, Phelps Dunbar
Shayan Beevers, Leadership Class
Mark Deethardt, Leadership Class
Tara Jones, Leadership Class
Kimberly Silas, Leadership Class
Hon. Paul Bonin, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal
John Anderssen, Court Reporters Association

Welcome & Introductions

Marta Schnabel and Luz Molina welcomed the committee members and guests and thanked everyone for attending. The ATJ Committee and Staff members introduced themselves.

Consent Calendar

A motion to accept the Consent Calendar was made by Linton Carney and seconded by Luz Molina. Consent Calendar accepted.

ATJ Summit Report – John Tull

Consultant and ATJ Summit facilitator, John Tull presented the summit report asserting again that the work being done in Louisiana ranks us among the top ATJ Programs in the country. John listed as challenges to address: i) a lack of communicate outside of the justice community in Louisiana and nationally regarding our work, and ii) a need for new fresh leadership/succession planning, and he also encouraged strategic planning.

Louisiana Court Reporters' Association Pro Bono Project – Judge Bonin/John Anderssen

Judge Bonin and John Anderssen, representing Louisiana court reporters, offered to provide pro bono services to Louisiana Justice Community members. After discussing the project, the Judge requested that a working group be created to help develop the pro bono project. Marta asked anyone interested in helping with the working group please email Monte.

ATJ Commission – Marta Schnabel

Marta reported that a proposal to establish an ATJ Commission has been presented to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court staff feels the order should be issued within the next week or two and appointments to the committee will move forward.

LIFT – Amy Duncan

The Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) Incubator and Accelerator is a two-year program providing selected new attorneys (called LIFT Fellows) with resources necessary to develop an innovative, public interest-oriented solo or small law practice. Overall, the purpose of the LIFT Fellowship Program is to:

- Assist new attorneys to develop successful solo and small practices;
- Encourage public-interest and social justice oriented law practices;
- Provide affordable professional legal services for modest income clients; and
- Help bridge the “justice gap” for those who would not otherwise qualify for free legal aid

The LSBA supports the fellows through resources such as mentoring, CLEs, practice management and technology training, networking and referrals. Currently, there are 10 Lift Fellows and we are asking committee members to help identify new fellows throughout the state for next year’s program. Linton Carney suggested notifying the committee when next year’s application process opens.

Marta suggests the creation of a Statewide Advisory Committee for the program.

ATJ Internship – Mark Surprenant

Mark Surprenant reported on the creation of a new project that will produce the next generation of Louisiana ATJ Leadership – the ATJ Leadership Intern Program. The internship will give a rising 2L law students from each of Louisiana’s 4 law schools the opportunity to learn about Louisiana’s Justice Community under the guidance of non-profit leaders and sponsors

from distinguished Louisiana firms. Successful applicants, chosen by members of the sponsoring firms, will receive a \$2500 stipend for the 5 week program. Mark hopes it will be a sought after and competitive internship. The law schools will begin to advertise for applicants in January 2016 for the program to begin in summer 2016. The LSBA Board of Governors has approved the development of the program and Mark motioned that the Committee adopt this project and continue on with implementation of the plan. The motion was seconded by Linton Carney and passed unanimously.

In Forma Pauperis Issues – Linton Carney

Communications were recently sent to successful litigants who filed *in forma pauperis* cases in Orleans Parish stating judgements would not be available until the all fees in the case were paid. A group of ATJ members and affected attorneys asked LSBA President Mark Cunningham request a meeting with Orleans Parish Clerk of Court Dale Atkins. Mark did so but had not received a response at the time of the meeting. Committee members responded that IFP problems are widespread. Committee members were asked to email Nicole Louque with the **current** problem along with JDC in which they are arising. A short list was taken at the meeting: 9th, 14th, 19th, 22nd, 31st, 36th, 38th.

Pro Bono Online Project – Monte Mollere

Monte Mollere reported on the ABA expansion of a Tennessee model online pro bono program where people can submit legal questions to be answered by volunteer attorneys online. After answering a few eligibility questions the user is allowed to submit an email to software queueing program overseen by an administrator who ensure delivery to pro bono attorneys for a response. The program has been working well and 6 other states have replicated the model. The ABA would like to have a program in all 50 states and will finance the administrator and software costs, but would require a host organization in each state to help coordinate volunteer recruitment. The LSBA Board of Governors has tentatively agreed to host the program if the ATJ Committee would like. A motion was made to support the project, seconded and passed.

Louisiana Justice Community Conference – Amy Duncan

The LJCC will be held October 8th and 9th at the Crown Plaza in Baton Rouge. Registration is open and the hotel room block is almost full. Registration closes September 25, 2015.

Civil Legal Aid Directory – Linton Carney

Intern Ryan Quinones at SLLS has been working on the directory along with the ATJ Directory Working Group. Linton expects it to be ready soon. The directory is not for the public it is for the providers to know what other agencies do so they can accurately refer people.

Bar Journal – Monte Mollere

Monte asked that the committee review the outline provided in the material (produced by Amy Duncan) and come back with input and articles for the February 2016 journal. Marta reminded the committee the print deadline for the February issue is December 2015.

Civil Legal Aid Awards – Amy Duncan

There are two new awards that will be presented at the LJCC. These awards are for people in the Civil Legal Aid industry. The two awards are Legal Service Excellence in Advocacy award and the Legal Service Innovation award. The deadline to submit nominations has been extended till August 31, 2015.

Access to Justice Subcommittee Reports

Appointments – Monte Mollere

The majority of the committees work gets accomplished by our 6 subcommittees. A copy of the 2015-2016 roster was supplied in the meeting material. Most of the committee submitted a preference as to which subcommittee they wish to serve on, those that did not were appointed to an appropriate subcommittee. If you wish to make and changes to the subcommittee you are currently on please notify Nicole Louque by Monday, August 31, 2015.

Funding Subcommittee – Monte Mollere

Recently the subcommittee was able to have the Pro Hac Vice fees increased by \$200.00; which translates into \$120,000 - \$150,000 annually to be spread across the 3 LSC programs. The money will be administered by the LBF. The subcommittee has several other projects they will be working on throughout the year.

Gap Subcommittee – Luz Molina

The subcommittee is currently working on 3 projects: Unmet legal needs survey, Language Access and IFP. Linda and Luz have met with Prof David Yarbrough with University of Louisiana at Lafayette to discuss the survey possibly being part of a class project. He is very interested and will be putting a proposal together reflecting time and cost.

Richard Williams at the Supreme Court has been helpful by working with the subcommittee to improve the Supreme Court's website information on language access.

SRL Subcommittee – Kathleen McNelis

There is an updated list of self-help websites in the meeting materials. The subcommittee will be hosting a SRL Summit at the LJCC in October. The subcommittee has completed 5-6 library training events throughout the state that have been very well received.

News from the Justice Community

Linton Carney mentioned the “Justice for all Ball” will be September 18, 2015.

Motion to Adjourn