

**Louisiana State Bar Association's  
Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee  
Meeting Time: October 24, 2024**

**Attendees**

Patricia Bonneau, Attorney at Law  
Garret DeReus, Bizer & DeReus, LLC  
Chris Edmunds, Attorney at Law, Co-Chair  
Paul Fleming, Fleming Law Firm  
Caitlin Morgenstern, Louisiana Supreme Court  
Debra Weinberg, Disability Rights Louisiana, Co-Chair  
Jessi Dominique, Law Clerk

**LSBA Staff**

Rebecca Collins  
Monte Mollere

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

- II. Approval of August 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes** – There was not a quorum of members present at the meeting, so the vote for approval of these minutes will take place at the next committee meeting.

**III. 2024-25 Committee Initiatives**

- 1. Update on LSBA Bar Journal “Disability Law Edition” and Interdiction and Alternatives Reference Card** – Debra Weinberg thanked the committee again for their work on the most recent Bar Journal edition. She has heard a lot of great feedback. Debra mentioned that the journal is also available online [here](#). If anyone would like physical copies of the Interdiction and Alternatives Reference Card, contact Rebecca at [rebecca.collins@lsba.org](mailto:rebecca.collins@lsba.org).
- 2. Annual E-O-Y Disabilities CLE, Friday, December 13th from 9 am to 12:30 pm** – Debra thanked Amber Sheppard and Patricia Bonneau who, along with LSBA staff Monte and Rebecca and Debra herself, met to put together an agenda for the Committee’s annual end-of-year Disability Law Training Series CLE.

While planning the event, the group decided to expand on some of the articles that were published in the most recent Bar Journal. Melanie Bray and Jason Asbill will present “Supported Decision Making, Interdiction, and Other Alternatives,” Amber Sheppard will present a professionalism hour about working with neurodivergent and autistic clients, and Hector Linares

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and Dr. Wayne T. Stewart will present "Updates in Special Education Law and Regulations."

Registration for the Disability Law Training Series will open first for members of the Committee. Registration will open to the public on Friday, Nov. 1. There is a maximum of 45 attendees due to the space.

- 3. Court Access Policy Statement** – There has been no update on this since the last Committee meeting. When its time for next steps, this Committee will work with the Accessibility Committee.
  - 4. Other Initiative Ideas** – The Committee just finished the two big projects of the Bar Journal edition and the Reference Card and are currently putting together the Disability Law Training Series CLE event that will take place in December. Debra and Monte encouraged Committee members to bring new initiative ideas to the next Committee meeting in January.
- IV. Policy, Legal, and Legislative Updates** - Debra Weinberg shared that the statute of limitations for special education due process complaints in Louisiana has been extended from one year to two years. Debra mentioned that this change was part of Act 198 that passed this year, along with other special education-related provisions.
- Garret DeReus explained that the Louisiana legislature has changed the statute of limitations for most legal claims in the state from one year to two years, with some exceptions like medical malpractice claims. Garret noted that there is ambiguity in the law regarding the statute of limitations for existing claims that were not yet prescribed before the new law went into effect, and there is a potential argument that there may be no statute of limitations for those claims.
- Chris Edmunds brought up that the state of Louisiana, and some other states, have filed a [lawsuit](#) against the Biden administration and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding recent Section 504 regulations. Chris explained that the lawsuit argues that the new regulations, which are related to transgender discrimination, could essentially nullify all Section 504 regulations, which are the primary source of substantive law for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.
- V. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- VI. Adjournment** – Next Committee meeting is Thursday, January 23 at noon.