

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**10:00 A.M. Friday, January 27, 2023**

**Meeting ID: 860 2523 5744  
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Attendees:

- **Hon. Lisa Woodruff-White (ret.), Chair, East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court**
- **Tina Suggs, Vice Chair, Frederick A. Miller & Associates**
- **Roxanne Newman, Vice Chair, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services**
- Terri Anderson-Scott, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- Talya Bergeron, Directing Attorney, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Nicole Bowyer, State Farm Insurance
- Quinn Brown, LaFleur & Laborde LLC
- Gwendolyn Collins-Greenup, Greenup Law, LLC
- Jessica Cantave, Lafayette Public Defender's Office
- Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- C.C. Kahr, The Pro Bono Project
- Kathleen Legendre, Zara Zeringue, LLC
- Prof. Luz Molina, Loyola University College of Law
- Jeffrey Nicholson, Nicholson Law Firm LLC
- Jeremy Nusloch, Frederick A Miller & Assoc.
- Joseph Oelkers III, Acadiana Legal Service Corp
- Camille Patti, Attorney at Law
- Sara Pic, Law Library of Louisiana
- Lisa Stansky, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Laura Tuggle, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Jane Thomas, Attorney at Law
- Ranie Thompson, Director of Legal Services, CrescentCare Legal Services
- Josef Ventulan, Louisiana State Law Institute
- Adrienne Wheeler, Louisiana Appleseed
- Monette Davis, LSBA Leadership Class
- Candace Ford, LSBA Leadership Class
- Bianca Moore, LSBA Leadership Class, SLLS Board of Directors, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court
- Debra Weinberg, Director of Community Advocacy, Disability Rights Louisiana

**\* A G E N D A \***

- I. Welcome and Introductions** – Judge Lisa Woodruff-White (retired) welcomed the group and asked new vice chair Roxanne Newman to introduce herself to the committee members.
- II. Consent Calendar** – A motion to accept the Consent Calendar was made by Professor Luz Molina, seconded by Tina Suggs and consent was adopted.
- III. 2022-23 Committee Planning and Goals** – *information and action items*– status update on committee projects and support of Louisiana Justice Community efforts. -Judge Woodruff-White helped to introduce this item for the Committee. The issues were grouped into “current or short-

range” goals and “longer-range” goals.

a. **Longer-range Plans and Goals**

- i. **SRL Assistance:** Judge Woodruff-White applauded the committee for their work with the JFA project and suggested that the next step is to evaluate the JFA project’s progress by analyzing the information regarding the connection between the people seeking services and those who are actually able to proceed with their legal issue. Members discussed local and national attempts to collect data have been difficult and not very successful. However, they recognized that Data on SRL cases as beneficial to further SRL work by the Committee and ATJ Counsel Stephanie Beaugh agreed to address this with the SRL Committee as well as inquire as to any efforts to collect this data either within the state or in other states.
- **Community Navigators:** The distinction was made between “legal/court” and “community” navigators. Community navigators (as distinguished from court navigators) are trained community advocates who assist SRLs with their interactions with the legal system. An attempt will be made to coordinate a discussion at the next ATJ Committee meeting with a group engaged in this work (LegalLink).

**Unbundling/Limited Scope Representation:** Professor Virginia Listach provided an overview of unbundling/limited scope representation that allows for services to be more affordable for low- and moderate-income households and gain access to the Pro Bono Project, SULC Clinic assist through LSR and representatives suggest a large component to success is providing the necessary education to attorneys about court forms. The LSR guide is noted as a step-by-step guideline on how to proceed with their cases. It was suggested that the primary concerns with LSR are ethical considerations about attorney representation. Amy has worked with the LSBA’s Ethics Counsel to help address these concerns and confirmed the toolkit provides this guidance, but the rules are a bit broad.

- b. **Justice Index** —The Justice Index is a survey produced by the National Center for Access to Justice at Fordham Law School sent to all Judicial Administrators in each state supreme court to help evaluate court access issues. NCAJ surveyed the Judicial Administrators in 5 issues, including Language Access and Disability Access. Two areas which Louisiana might review are:

- i. **Language Access:** Louisiana Supreme Court, Office of Language Access Director Brian Wiggins reviewed prior survey responses and believes that many of the issues highlighted by the survey have been resolved except by implementation of the state’s Language Access Plan. Language Access Committee Chair, Professor Luz Molina agreed to have the committee review the issues.
- ii. **Disability Access:** The LSPD Committee has reviewed the Justice Index results and has identified several issues on which to base their effort including education of both judges and court staff. Committee co-chair Debra Weinberg requested the ATJ Committee’s help to connect them with people working in both the courts and the clerks of court office to continue developing collaborative educational projects on disability related issues.

c. **Current or Short-range Plans and Goals**

- i. **Gap in Services for the Elderly Jane Thomas** reported that the subcommittee met and will meet again in February to collect resources and information on services for

individuals seeking assistance with interdictions. The goal of this assignment is to help identify gaps of services and develop solutions.

- ii. **Heir Property** Adrienne Wheeler stated that Appleaseed has reached out to the LSBA Trusts and Estates Section requesting additional volunteers to create an Heirship Property Guide. LSU students and Real Estate attorneys will review the guide. Appleaseed and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services are working on a few cases together. Jane Thomas shared that the Governor's office is willing to help with the project.

**Disaster Pro Bono Cases** –Roxanne Newman reported a need for private bar volunteers to handle non-fee-generating cases or insurance claims with negligible monetary outcomes. Through a subgrant of the New Orleans Pro Bono Project, SLLS is with Wells Fargo on a collaborative heirship community project. SLLS is also using the LIFT attorneys to help address these needs ALSC does not have so much of disaster backlog currently but is having difficulty engaging pro bono attorneys ALSC's disaster unit is working on strategies to get more private attorneys involved and educate the public of disaster legal services. A pro bono mentorship program was discussed. A small group will discuss whether it is productive to examine this possibility.

#### IV. **ATJ Committee Subcommittee and Initiatives Reports**

- a. **Pro Bono Subcommittee – Pro Bono Awards:** Bridget Berins was introduced as the new ATJ coordinator and is responsible for the Pro Bono awards. She announced the deadline for pro bono awards nominations is February 9<sup>th</sup> and the ceremony will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Link: <https://www.lsba.org/nominations/nominationannouncements.aspx>.
- b. **Self-Represented Litigation Summit - Stephanie Beaugh** –After a COVID-19 hiatus, the SRL Summit was back for its 4<sup>th</sup> annual event in Baton Rouge at Taylor, Porter law firm. Approximately 50 participants represented Assumption Parish, East Baton Rouge, Lincoln, Orleans, St. Bernard, Tangipahoa, and more. Attendees included judges, clerks of court, court staff, pro bono and legal aid attorneys, and representatives from domestic violence organizations. Sessions covered court responsibilities dealing with SRLs, court forms and provided updates regarding existing resources.
- c. **ATJ Grant Fund** – Monte Mollere updated that the LBF's Access to Justice grant fund is accepting applications for their next grants. The ATJ Committee annually recommends funding of application for services related to three grant criteria: (1) the advancement and maintenance of statewide technology; (2) coordination of statewide intake and referral; and (3) disaster emergency response. The ATJ Committee will review application at the April 14, 2023, meeting.
- d. **ATJ Developing Leadership Intern Program** - Rachael Mills reported there will be two – new sponsors for the Access to Justice 2023 Internship Program. Butler Snow is sponsoring the LSU intern and the LSBA Civil Law & Litigation Section is sponsoring the Loyola intern. A Louisiana Bar Journal article will review where past ATJ interns are, and the work they are doing now.
- e. **Public Interest Legal Training – Amy Duncan** – Request for proposals for the Louisiana Justice Community Conference. The Justice Community Conference will be held again on November 2-3, 2023, in Baton Rouge, La.: <https://forms.gle/kwQ6azp5iVDUGkZX9> .

Additionally, a disaster law summit is in the works and will most likely be held in Lake Charles or another area in the western part of the state.

- V. Community Updates** – Members were invited to discuss any issues of relevance to the Justice Community.
- a. Sara Pic mentioned that she is collecting resources to help LEP individuals and will create a Spanish library legal guide. Anything that is in Spanish would be extremely helpful. Members suggested including materials that explain the U.S. legal system to LEP individuals.
  - b. Kathleen Legendre shared that the (Equal Justice Works) EJW is planning a reunion of Louisiana EJW alumni. Please contact Kathleen to share anyone's contact information that is an alumnus of the program and is interested in helping plan this fun event: [kathleenmlegendre@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmlegendre@gmail.com).
- VI. Adjourn:** Next meeting: April 14, 2023, hybrid – in-person location to be determined.