

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Disaster Response
10:00 P.M. ★ Friday, November 18, 2016
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Marta Schnabel, Co-Chair
Luz Molina, Co-Chair
Linton Carney, The Pro Bono Project
Nicole Gaither, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Acadiana Legal Services
Kathleen Legendre, The Pro Bono Project
Brian Lenard, Hammond LA
Joe Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Sachida Raman, Acadiana Legal Services Corp.
Jonathan Rhodes, Louisiana Civil Justice Center
Jenny Rizzo-Choi, The Pro Bono Project
Graham Ryan, Jones Walker LLP
Anna St. John, Attorney at Law
Lisa Stansky, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.
Laura Tuggle, Southeast La Legal Services Corp.

Staff:

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

Guest:

Justin Courtney, Legal Services of North Louisiana
Rebecca Helveston, LSBA Leadership Class
Nicholas Hite, The Hite Law Group, LLC
Brandee Ketchum, LSBA Leadership Class
Greg Landry, Acadiana Legal Services
Roxanne Newman, Southeast Louisiana Legal Corp.
Claire Popovich, LSBA Leadership Class
Jared Price, LSBA Leadership Class
Brittany Rosenbloom, LSBA Leadership Class
Dayna Ryan, LSBA Leadership Class
Rebecca Sha, LSBA Leadership Class
Kristen Stringer, LSBA Leadership Class
Michael Victorian, LSBA Leadership Class

Welcome & Introductions

Marta welcomed the committee and everyone introduced themselves.

Review of ATJ Structure – Monte Mollere

Monte Mollere presented a brief PowerPoint explaining the Access to Justice Structure and how it relates to many organizations throughout the state, including but not limited to LSC's, Pro Bono Programs, Law Schools etc. Access the Justice Committee and the ATJ Commission are committee of the LSBA overseen by its Board of Governors. The Louisiana Civil Justice

Center is an affiliate but a separate 501c3. The Access to Justice Commission has six committees: Building Bridges, Funding, IFP, Language Access, Modest Means and SRL. The Access to Justice Committee has four subcommittees: Disaster Planning, Gap Assessment, Pro Bono, and Technology (Ad Hoc). The ATJ staff also oversees three additional committees: Children's Law, Criminal Justice and Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities.

The Access to Justice Commission was formed in 2015 at the request of the Chief Justice who sits as co-chair with Marta Schnabel. The Commission is a newer ABA model brings the voice and involvement of the Supreme Courts and those individuals that would not ordinarily be on a bar committee.

Currently the Access to Justice Department has a large number of projects underway. Some of which include Louisiana Justice Community Conference, ATJ Developing Leadership Internship, Economic Impact Study (EIS). An EIS is a study that shows the direct impact that civil legal aid has on the economy. Louisiana is one of the few states in the country that has no state funding for civil legal aid. Hopefully, the EIS will be a very useful tool in asking for funding going forward.

Committee Appointments – Luz Molina

The SRL and Funding subcommittees have been folded into the Commission committees and the subcommittee appointments have been completed. Members are encouraged to be active in the subcommittees to bring issues to the committee.

Consent Calendar

Linton made a motion to approve the calendar with the adjustment of the date and the motion was seconded.

Justice Community Issues

Service Accessibility Committee – Marta Schnabel

Marta suggest creating a committee to examine the distribution of providers and the services provided by the providers, to help find out who is offering what, where. This committee will be tasked with speaking directly to the providers to get a sense of what services are provided and needed in what locations. Anyone interested in this committee please contact Monte or Nicole asap.

Access to Justice Commission –

SRL Committee- Michael Schachtman

The Louisiana ATJ Commission approved the distribution of standardized forms and the committee is working on development. The Supreme Court has a committee working on forms also but their forms are geared toward attorneys not clients.

Funding Committee- Monte Mollere

Monte reported that LSBA leadership met with the new Governor's staff and while there is not money in the budget for civil legal aid he is very much in support of civil legal service for the poor.

LBF will be coordinating a communications and messaging training with Voice For Civil Justice, Martha Bergmark on November 30th.

Building Bridges Committee – Laura Tuggle

The committee works toward strengthening the connection between civil and criminal justice. Laura mentioned that the committee recently met with the criminal justice committee to discuss ways civil legal aid can help people with criminal records.

ATJ Leadership Internship – Luz Molina

The first internship was last year and it was very successful. The program was so successful last year they added another week to the program for 2017. Mark Surprenant has been a great leader in inspiration to this program.

LIFT, incubator and accelerator – Amy Duncan

Taking the time to assess the program to see what is working what is not. So far collaborating with local agencies to work on specific issues seems to be working best. Maybe LIFT could piggy back on the SAC committee.

Pro Bono Subcommittee – Kathleen Legendre

Monte made the committee aware of the Louisiana Pro Bono Survey that the ABA will be distributing in January 2017 and encouraged participation and promotion by committee and pro bono programs. Monte requested the pro bono agencies and other agencies to put a link to the survey in their newsletters. The Bar will provide incentives that will be raffled to individuals providing their contact information.

LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org

Since October Rachael has worked on providing the public with site information for LA.FreeLegalAnswers.org. The site has received 37 questions, 27 already answered leaving 10 open questions. Rachael is asking for volunteers, currently the site has 56 attorneys signed up. The ABA supplies the malpractice insurance for the attorneys. Monte challenged the LSBA Leadership Class to sign up for the site. Laura Tuggle asked about how an attorney would go about making a referral. She offered to develop a short webinar to educate the attorneys on how to make a referral. Monte stressed that we are one of the first state to go online and it is a work in progress so he expects there to be many changes and upgrades as we move along.

Pro Bono Awards – Nicole Louque

The awards process will open December 5, 2016 and close February 17, 2017. It is important to get your nomination in early to have time to work with staff on any follow up questions. We would like to see geographic diversity. The ceremony will be on May 23, 2017 at 5:00pm at the Supreme Court.

ATJ Subcommittee and Staff Reports

Disaster Response and Planning Committee - Ann Gregorie/Graham Ryan

Ann Gregorie reported since August the committee has coordinated with the pro bono agencies, LCJC, legal services and FEMA. We have volunteers in the DRC in flooded areas and call continue to come in to LCJC and SLLS. The work is now moving into the phase of extended legal services addressing FEMA appeals. Graham Ryan mentioned they are in their 14th week

since the flooding occurred. The first week 192 calls came in, the 4th week following the flooding 415 calls came in and recently the call volume has come down to 41 a week. The real credit goes to the people with boots on the ground. (SLLS, Acadiana, LCJC....) In the summer the ABA will want to put on a summit to see what is working with our Disaster Plan and what we can do to improve it. Laura Tuggle report SLLS opened over 300 disaster cases since the August flooding.

Gap Assessment Subcommittee – Luz Molina

The Committee is continuing to work with Prof Yarbrough on the unmet legal needs survey and expect to have the results available March 15, 2017.

Congratulations to Kathleen Legendre on her new position at The Pro Bono Project.

Re-entry Pro Bono Program – Amy Duncan

The group will be having a CLE on December 13, 2016 to recruit attorneys for the program.

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