

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
9:00 A.M. ★ Thursday, January 11, 2018
New Orleans, LA

Attendance:

Marta Schnabel, O'Bryon & Schnabel, Co- Chair
Hon. Bernette J. Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice
Hon. Jeffrey Cashe, Judge 21st Judicial District
Jeffrey Coreil, Neuner Pate
Christy Kane, Louisiana Appleseed
Virginia Listach, Southern University Law Center
John "Eddie" McAuliffe, Jr., Fredrick A. Miller and Assoc.
Alainna Mire, Alexandria City Attorney's Office
Luz Molina, Loyola University of New Orleans College of Law
Chris Ralston, Phelps Dunbar, LLP
Hon. Harry Randow, LA District Judges Assoc.,
Valerie Schexnayder, Attorney at Law
Mark Surprenant, Adams and Reese
Kimberly Theriot, Conrad Shipyard LLC
Molly Vigour, Canal HR, Inc.
Sandra Vujnovich, Judicial Administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court
Angela White-Bazile, Louisiana Supreme Court

Staff:

Amy Duncan, ATJ Training Counsel
Linda Johnson, ATJ Technology
Counsel
Nicole Louque, ATJ Admin. Assistant
Rachael Mills, ATJ Projects Counsel
Monte Mollere, ATJ Director
Michael Schachtman, ATJ SRL
Counsel

Guests:

Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Sachida Raman, Acadiana Legal Services
Laura Tuggle, Southeast LA Legal Services

Welcome & Introductions

Marta Schnabel welcomed the Commission members and the attendees introduced themselves. The consent calendar with approved.

Chris Ralston reported that the Louisiana Bar Foundation recently completed strategic planning with the assistance of Greg Hunley. The plan will be brought to the LBF Board for approval.

ATJ Committee Reports:

Building Bridges – Molly Vigour

The most recent CLE was held at the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. Out of the 80 attendees, 35 attorneys signed up (27 of which are new

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

9:00 A.M. ★ Thursday, January 11, 2018

New Orleans, LA

volunteers), and 17 case matters were distributed onsite by Adrienne Wheeler with the Justice and Accountability Center.

The committee was addressing problems with obtaining Ex-Offender Provisional Driver's Licenses under La. R.S. 32:415.3. Kelly Orians with Rising Foundations requested help to hold a meeting with the OMV to discuss a procedure for re-entrants to obtain provisional driver's licenses.

A person's ability to get and maintain employment depends heavily on his or her access to transportation. The Chief Justice suggested a meeting with Secretary Leblanc may determine ways to alleviate the problem. Judge Sholes has also offered to help at the legislative level to possibly tweak the statutes if necessary.

Funding Committee – Chris Ralston

Chris Ralston reported the committee continues to work on obtaining a state appropriation for civil legal aid. Christy Kane, with LA Appleseed, has set several meetings with state legislators to ask for their support. The ATJ Staff is working with the Legal Aid Program to plan open houses throughout the state. In addition, Chris Ralston introduced a motion that the commission recommend to the LSBA Board of Governors that the LBF's Campaign to Preserve Civil Legal Aid be adopted as part of the committee's efforts. The motion was seconded by Judge Randow and passed without opposition.

IFP Committee – Alainna Mire

One goal of the IFP committee is to find amicable solutions to some of the problems litigants are facing obtaining IFPs. The committee sponsored a "judges only session" at LSBA summer school which include information on the IFP issue and produced and distributed brochures and other informational materials at various Clerk of Court meetings. In addition, Alainna Mire, Judge Randow and Sachida Ramon presented a session at the Louisiana Justice Community Conference where the difficulties experienced by legal aid attorneys was discussed. The committee has still not been able to conduct a presentation or training session at a Clerk of Court conference or meeting. The LSCs feel that the next step should be a more aggressive approach, such as litigation in those districts where there have been issues.

Modest Means Committee – Mark Surprenant

Mark Surprenant reminded the commission that the purpose of the Modest Means Directory is to make attorneys accessible to those who do not qualify for free legal services yet cannot afford to hire an attorney. The directory is marketed towards individuals who fall below 400% of the federal poverty line. To join the directory, attorneys are required to view a one-hour CLE presented by LSBA President-Elect Barry Grodsky and Loyola New Orleans College of Law Professor Dane Ciolino. The first 50 attorneys who join the directory can view this CLE free of charge; those that follow will be charged a \$40 fee. Once the directory has over 50 attorneys listed representing more than 10 parishes, notice will be sent to our ATJ partners. Over the next few months, the committee will work to invite attorneys, namely solo and small firm practitioners, to view the CLE and join the directory.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
9:00 A.M. ★ Thursday, January 11, 2018
New Orleans, LA

Self-Represented Litigation Committee – Judge Harry Randow

The debt-buyers forms discussed at the last commission meeting were approved by the Louisiana District Judges Association SRL subcommittee but not endorsed by the executive committee of the association. Historically, it has been difficult to get judges to agree on how proceedings should advance. Marta pointed out that even though the forms were not endorsed by the LDJA, the forms will still be made available. Laura Tuggle with SLLS assured the commission that the family law and debit buyers' forms will still be automated and made available with instructions to the public.

In addition, it was announced that there will be an SRL Summit on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Lafayette Bar Association. A survey was sent out to obtain ideas and collect areas of interest for the summit. Participation by commission members is encouraged.

Committee Projects and Initiatives:

Continuum – Michael Schachtman

Michael Schachtman communicated that the LSBA has designed a new page on their website that will act as an access point for the member of the public seeking legal help. The page features the range of legal services available throughout the state, these options in this continuum of services includes help hiring an attorney which someone can pay for, to modest means options, to pro bono and legal service options, to available online forms and resources. The page will go live in about a month. Luz Molina requested that the site be available in multiple languages in the future.

ATJ Committee Subcommittees:

Pro Bono Summit- Rachael Mills

Rachael Mills announced that the Statewide Pro Bono Summit will take place on Thursday, January 18, 2018 in Baton Rouge in conjunction with the LSBA's Midyear Meeting. There will be four hours of CLE available to those who attend.

Pro Bono Awards -

Nicole Louque reminded the commission members to submit nominations for the 2018 Pro Bono Awards. Nominations are open until February 23, 2018.

Distinguished Fellows Ceremony

After the Commission meeting, Chief Justice Johnson presided over a ceremony introducing the first fellows for the ATJ Distinguished Pro Bono Fellows. The 2018 fellows include: Sara Campbell with Acadiana Legal Service Corporation, Thomas E. Gibbs with the Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish, Judy Perry Martinez with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Valerie T. Schexnayder with the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and Hugh R. Straub with the New Orleans Pro Bono Project.