

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 P.M. ★ Friday, April 7, 2017
New Orleans, LA**

Attendance:

Marta Schnabel, Co-Chair
Erica Andrews, Attorney at Law
Sean Brady, Flanagan Partners LLP
Sarah Campbell, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corp.
Linton Carney, The Pro Bono Project
LaWanda Gibson, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
Ann Gregorie, Baton Rouge Bar Association
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Acadiana Legal Services
Robert Lancaster, Louisiana State University
Christine Lipsey, McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC
Betty Maury, Maury Law Firm, LLC
Joe Oelkers, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.
Sara Pic, Louisiana Supreme Court Library
Whit Prottzman, Deepwater Horizon, CAO
Tara Richard, Louisiana Appleseed
Jonathan Rhodes, Louisiana Civil Justice Center
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.
Sharonda Williams, Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley Willis & Swanson, LLP

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:

Marco Balducci, Pelton and Balducci, LLC
Cynthia Bordonaro, SLLS, Northshore Pro Bono
Renee LeBoeuf, Louisiana Bar Foundation
Chris Ralston, Phelps Dunbar, LLP
Joshua Williams, Leadership Class
Micah Zeno, Leadership Class

Welcome & Introductions

Marta welcomed the committee and everyone introduced themselves.

Consent Calendar

A motion was made to accept the consent calendar, seconded and passed.

Immigration

Marco Balducci reported on behalf of the Louisiana Immigration Working Group, chaired by Judge Jay Zainey, which was founded to help address the widespread lack of counsel among noncitizens in United States Immigration Courts. The group is composed of legal aid organizations, private attorneys, and social services providers in these communities. Though some organizations may be restricted from providing services to noncitizens due to funding limitations, the LIWG is working to identify additional opportunities for collaboration within the

civil legal aid community. This includes securing representation for unaccompanied minors, crime victims, and other vulnerable individuals, and also providing information and resources to people in need. A related initiative seeks to provide counsel, at least for an initial bond hearing, for detained immigrants in Central Louisiana- approximately 85% of whom appear before a court without representation.

ATJ Grant Fund

There were two grant requests, LCJC requested \$15,000 to support the work of a disaster response attorney and LSBA requested \$29,000 for SCMS. Much discussion was had and the final decision of the committee was to recommend to the LBF that both requests be granted.

Justice Community Issues

Access to Justice Commission Updates

Building Bridges – Laura Tuggle/Cynthia Bordonaro

The 2nd JDC Courts have the most inmates in the Re-entry program, and prescreening was done in March for 19 inmates. Additional screening is scheduled for 25 more inmates. Northshore Pro Bono will be schedule a training within the next 2 months to solicit pro bono volunteers.

SLLS Director, Laura Tuggle, applied for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grant at the end of March that would support the Re-entry Program work. Bob Lancaster offered assistance in the programs efforts to expand to the Baton Rouge area. He would like to see services extend to inmates outside the Re-entry Program. Assistance to early release inmates could assist when they are before the parole committee which considers factors such as back child support, ability to obtain employment, etc.

SRL – Michael Schachtman

The ATJ Commission approved the distribution of standardized domestic form to the public. The Divorce form is still under review and should be ready in the next few months.

Language Access- Linda Johnson

Linda reported that the committee is working on several projects: They have completed an interpreter's survey and are currently working on the report as well as working on an attorney survey to determine how attorney use interpreters and interact with the system. The committee through Louisiana Appleseed is working with Phelps Dunbar volunteers to conduct a nationwide best practices survey.

Federal Funding – Monte Mollere

Federal update by Monte revealed that the 2018 budget shows \$0 for funding LSC's. On April 24-26th LSBA leadership will be going to Washington for ABA Day to speak to congressman about maintaining the FY2017 \$385 million funding and possibly increasing funding to \$450 million for FY2018. The ABA is asking people to go to www.defendlegalaid.org to create a card to show support for civil legal aid. These cards will be given to congressman.

State Funding – Chris Ralston

The Committee is hopeful for state funding in the future but there is nothing allocated in the current budget. House Bill 453, authored by Rep. Neil Abramson on seeks an increase of \$25.00 to the non-attorney notaries' renewal fees to be dedicated to civil legal aid. The Funding Committee asked the ATJ Committee members to help by reaching out to legislators for support on the bill.

Pro Bono Awards – Marta Schnabel

The subcommittee has made their recommendations to the BOG and they have been approved. The ceremony will be held at the Supreme Court on May 23rd at 5pm.

ATJ Leadership Internship – Rachael Mills

This is the second year for the program. The program has been extended from five weeks to six weeks and will begin May 15th through June 23rd. During that time they will work with several civil legal aid agencies as well as several Judges.

ATJ Subcommittee and Staff Reports

Gap Assessment Subcommittee

The Subcommittee is still working on the report for unmet legal needs with Prof. Yarbrough.

Disaster Subcommittee

The Subcommittee was activated in February due to tornados in Orleans Parish. Jonathan with LJCH has received about 100-200 calls regarding the tornados.

News from Justice Community Members

Pro Bono Project

ABA President Linda Klein spoke today to regional managing firm partners and other local bar leadership regarding pro bono and the profession's responsibility. Also, mark your calendars for the Justice For All Ball, September 15, 2017. Honorary chair is Leah Chase of Dooky Chase's Restaurant.

Legal Aid of North Louisiana

Recently Jean Liles with Legal Aid of North Louisiana reported that both the 1st JDC and the 26th JDC have been having IPF problems. Amy Duncan reported that the Family Law Taskforce has reported several problems also. Amy was asked to compile the comments to be presented to the IFP Committee.

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

SLLS hired a new fellow for the Veteran's Clinic. She will be working at the Veteran's hospital.

Southern University Law Center

NITA training is available at Southern Law Center May 15-17 to all public interest attorneys. A flyer containing details was distributed.